Metro publishers disown NPC quick count

STORY ON PAGE A3

HAMBURGER SANDWICH MUNA TAYO TAPOS KUMAIN TAYO NG KANIN.
SIGURADONG BUSOG!

Please pass the rice

BY G. LACUARTA

THERE'S the beef, sure, but where's the rice?

A study by the

PLEASE/ A4

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 25, 2001 ★ 68 PAGES 5 SECTIONS VOL.16 NO. 136 ₱15

Castro can't expect help from PCGG

BY BLANCHE RIVERA AND DONNA CUETO

THERE will neither be refuge at home nor legal assistance for former Presidential Commission on Good Government chair David Castro, who was arrested last week in New York for allegedly selling fake gold certificates.

"If (Castro) comes back here, he will be made

CASTRO/ A4

'General, keep cell open'

Erap lawyers score 'show of force' for 'psychological warfare'

BY DAVE VERIDIANO, CHRISTINE HERRERA, MARTIN P. MARFIL AND JEROME ANING

"OPEN your cell phone, general, 24 hours tomorrow."

These were the words of Sandiganbayan Presiding Justice Francis Garchitorena to Director Thompson C. Lantion yesterday as the Philippine National Police (PNP) awaited the anti-graft court's order for the arrest of ousted President Joseph Estrada.

Lantion, chief of the PNP directorate for police community relations, is the overall ground commander of "Oplan Hagip," a police operation involving 6,000 personnel that will enforce the arrest warrant on Estrada.

Some 500 policemen from Regions 3 and 4 were brought to Manila to augment the security forces.

The implementation of Oplan Hagip was put on hold yesterday because the Sandiganbayan's third division handling the plunder charge against Estrada did not issue a warrant for his arrest.

"There is nothing to be announced today," Garchitorena said at a news conference as the court's third division pored over the evidence that led to Estrada's indictment three weeks ago.

"'Whew! Praise the Lord!' Those were his

GENERAL/ A20

SPECIAL ACTION FORCE members try on their gas masks to prepare for E-Day today, or any day this week. Five PNP district commands will secure the route to be taken by the arresting convoy of at least seven vehicles, including two fire trucks, led by PNP Director General Leandro Mendoza. EDWIN BACASMAS

Arrest first before motion to delay, says Desierto

BY MICHAEL LIM UBAC AND MARTIN P. MARFIL

OMBUDSMAN Aniano Desierto yesterday said deposed President Joseph Estrada and his son Jinggoy cannot ask the Sandiganbayan to hold the warrants for their arrest because they had no legal personality to do so.

Desierto said Estrada and his son should first agree to have themselves arrested before they could file motions with the anti-graft court in connection with the plunder and other criminal charges filed against them by the Ombudsman.

"The court should first take cognizance of cases before it could assume jurisdiction of the cases. That will happen only if Estrada (and his son) are arrested," he said.

Desierto was reacting to the petition filed by lawyers for the Estradas asking the Sandiganbayan to delay their arrest and to give them 10 days to file a petition with the Supreme Court.

The defense lawyers also asked the anti-graft court to remand the case to the Office of the Ombudsman for preliminary investigation.

Desierto pointed out that the Sandiganbayan had no jurisdiction over Estrada and his co-accused in the plunder case unless they had been arrested. "So they could not file any motion or petition before they are arrested," he said.

Overall Deputy Ombudsman Margarito Gervacio said the Office of the Ombudsman would oppose the motion to delay arrest of the father and son on the ground that "the movants do not exist."

"We will ask the court that the motion be disregarded and expunged from the records of the Sandiganbayan," Gervacio said at a press conference yesterday afternoon.

He also said the Ombudsman would not entertain any motion from the Estradas or the other accused unless they were first arrested.

"We will entertain everything after the arrest, period," he said.

Gervacio expressed confidence that the Sandiganbayan's third division would soon issue the warrants of arrest.

"It's going to happen (the arrest of Estrada, Jinggoy, etc.). We're very, very sure of that," Gervacio said.

But lawyer Romeo Capulong, a private prosecutor in the aborted impeachment trial of Estrada, and Josie Lichauco of the Council of Philippine Affairs, who were present during the press conference, expressed dismay over the delay in the arrest of the disgraced President.

"How shall we view objectively these cases at this stage? Well, we have a weak

ARREST/ A20

Sto. Domingo folk welcome Erap's coming

BY ALCUIN PAPA

STO. DOMINGO in Sta. Rosa, Laguna, is the quintessential barrio community. It has about a thousand residents, 900 of them voters.

Life in Barangay Sto. Domingo is slow and tranquil. It revolves around a training camp of the Philippine National Police, Fort Sto. Domingo, where the Special Action Forces (SAF) Training and Seminar Center is located.

STO. DOMINGO/ A20

RP-2042
RP-2041

SHOULD the situation on the ground become unmanageable, the accused will be airlifted by chopper. Three are on standby at the Camp Crame parade grounds. EDWIN BACASMAS

Jinggoy, Luli: Study in contrast

BY TJ BURGONIO AND ARMAND N. NOCUM

IF THE daughter of the incumbent president does not mind being subjected to security checks at the airport, why should the son of an ousted president raise hell for going through the same inspection?

According to President Macapagal-Arroyo, her daughter, Evangeline Lourdes "Luli" Arroyo, had quietly submitted to a security check at the Ninoy Aquino Interna-

JINGGOY/ A21

'Bishop': Fight to stop cops from arresting Estrada

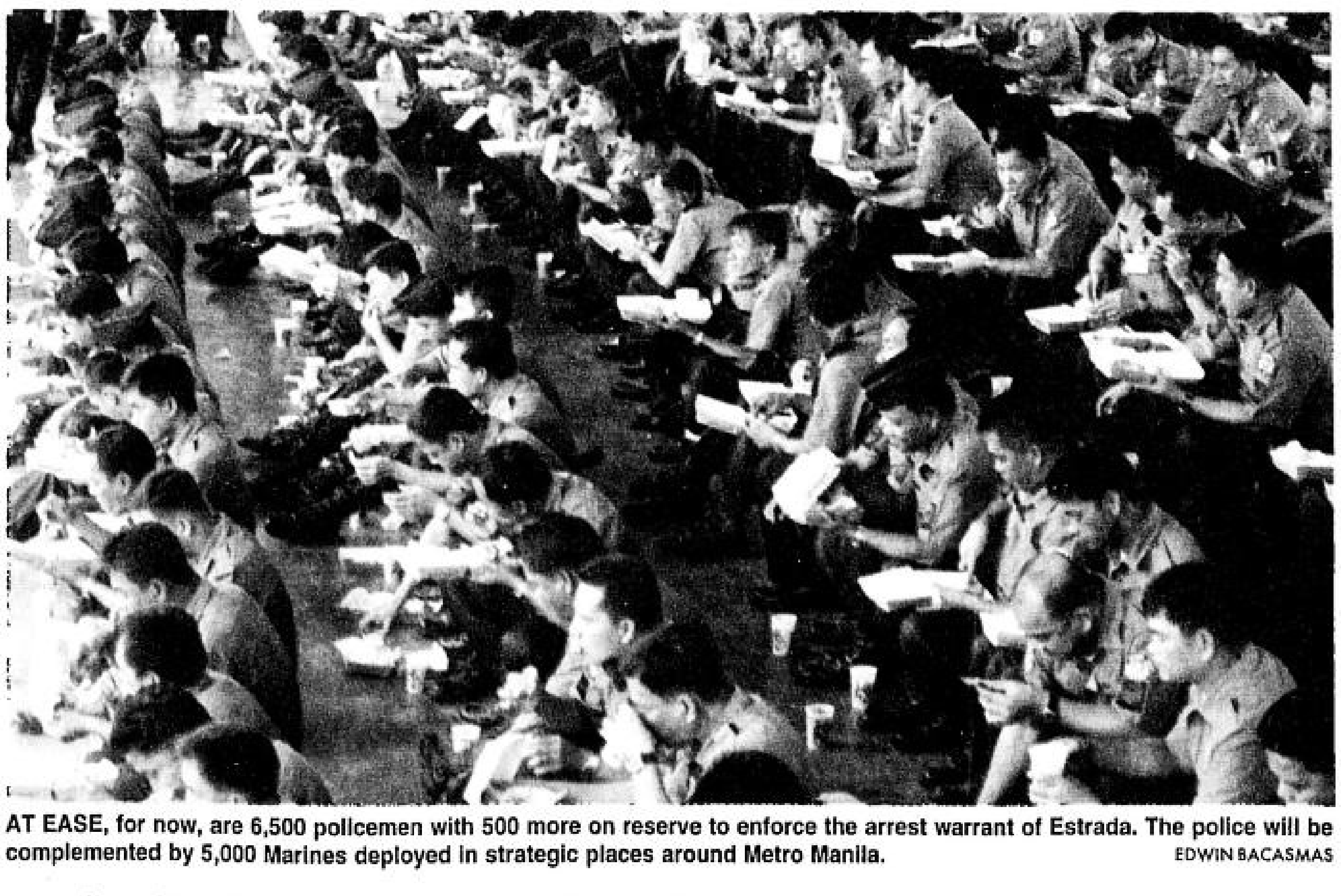
BY AGNES E. DONATO

AN ALLEGED Catholic bishop yesterday called on his fellow supporters of ousted President Joseph Estrada to use physical violence to prevent the arrest of their idol at his home at the North Greenhills Subdivision in San Juan.

"*Kung meron mang pumasok dito na hindi natin kakampi, bugbugin nyo* (If our enemies attempt to get through the picket line, beat them)," said alleged Bishop Efren Perez of Bulacan.

Pro-Estrada groups continued to camp out outside the three gates of the subdivision to prevent law enforcers from

BISHOP/ A20



AT EASE, for now, are 6,500 policemen with 500 more on reserve to enforce the arrest warrant of Estrada. The police will be complemented by 5,000 Marines deployed in strategic places around Metro Manila. EDWIN BACASMAS

PAOCTF behind kidnaps–GMA

'No more stage-managed kidnappings'

BY ARMAND N. NOCUM, JULIET L. JAVELLANA AND DONNA S. CUETO

THIS time President Macapagal-Arroyo was specific in naming the Presidential Anti-Organized Crime Task Force as the group supposedly behind the "stage-managed" crimes victimizing mostly wealthy Chinese-Filipinos.

At her regular press briefing in Malacañang yesterday, the President said members of the elite group formerly headed by now senatorial candidate Panfilo Lacson were found to have been involved in criminal acts including kidnapping for ransom.

This was why she ordered that it be disbanded, she said, reading from a prepared statement.

PAOCTF/ A21

TULOY NA TULOY NA YAN!

Gloria vows to take extra mile for peace with Reds

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo said she will "walk an extra mile" in peace talks with communist rebels and tackle poverty and other root causes of the insurgency while negotiating.

Speaking a day before government negotiators leave for Oslo, Norway, to meet their rebel counterparts, the President said she hopes to end the conflict "not next year, nor the next, but soon, in the foreseeable future."

The negotiations with the communist-led National Democratic Front—aimed at settling a 32-year-old rebellion that has killed and displaced thousands and impeded development—begin on Friday in Norway.

"The root cause of the insurgency is not communism but social justice and economic deprivation," Ms Macapagal said.

"They are engaged in the struggle because massive poverty has robbed them of opportunities. There are not enough decent jobs for peaceful citizens. The criminal justice system is indifferent to the poor. They cannot afford doctors or rising medical costs."

Ms Macapagal said she will fight these problems as talks proceed.

She said accommodating the rebels' wish to hold talks in a foreign neutral venue "is one more proof of our readiness, and my readiness to walk the extra mile to put an end to the intractable problem."

No ceasefire

The President, however, rejected an interim ceasefire, arguing that Filipinos did not necessarily ask for it.

Communist New People's Army guerrillas are the main suspects in the assassination of more than a dozen candidates and their supporters ahead of the May 14 elections.

"If people violate the laws, if they kill, they have to answer for the killing," Ms Macapagal said.

On Monday, Agrarian Reform Secretary Hernani Braganza, a member of the government panel, ruled out granting an NDF demand to free the killers of a US intelligence officer, showing one potential sticking point in the talks.

Donato Continente and Juanito Itaas were convicted in 1991 for killing Col. James Rowe, who coordinated US military support to the Philippines.

Luis Jalandoni, chief negotiator of the NDF, has said he expects the pair's release as a goodwill gesture by the government.

The NDF has also demanded the government halt joint exercises in the Philippines with the US military.

In Baguio City, Satur Ocampo, president of the left-leaning Bayan Muna party-list group, disclosed that Ms Macapagal has reinstated a peace document, whose suspension by her predecessor led to the breakup of peace talks with the communists.

4-point agenda

The Comprehensive Agreement on Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law (Cahrihl), which provides for the joint monitoring of human rights violations, was the first agreement in a four-point peace agenda that opened negotiations with the communists in 1997.

Ocampo, who was a former negotiator for the NDF, said he saw "an element of optimism" in Ms Macapagal's gestures of good faith.

But he noted that the government's problem to date is the absence of a comprehensive social and comprehensive economic reform platform that would allow it to comply with any commitments it may make in the talks.

He suggested that the government use a comprehensive peace policy drawn up by lawyer Haydee Yorac for the talks with the NDF and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front.

Yorac proposed a seven-point policy guideline that addressed the roots of most conflicts, including poverty and social injustice. *AP and AFP, with a report from Vincent Cabreza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

Corona is OIC as Little President goes under knife

By Armand N. Nocum

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday appointed her chief of staff, Renato Corona, as acting executive secretary while Executive Secretary Renato de Villa is recuperating from a triple heart bypass operation.

"I am appointing my chief of staff, Secretary Corona, to be the OIC (officer in charge) of the Office of the Executive Secretary, until Secretary De Villa is ready to go back to work," the President said in her weekly press briefing.

The President said De Villa's operation at the Makati Medical Center yesterday morning went without a hitch.

"It's finished... successful," the President declared.

De Villa's US-based heart surgeon, Jorge Garcia, was unavailable for comment, but presidential spokesperson Rigoberto Tiglao confirmed that De Villa is out of danger.

"All systems stable," Tiglao declared, although as of yesterday afternoon, he said De Villa was still unconscious.

De Villa is recovering at one of the suites of the hospital.

Comelec chief sued as infighting worsens

By Gerald G. Lacuarta

THE INTERNAL conflict at the Commission on Elections took another dramatic turn yesterday as sacked information chief Angelina Matibag filed a criminal and administrative complaint against Chair Alfredo Benipayo over her relief on April 11 which she claimed to have been illegal.

But Benipayo, who called a news conference minutes after the complaint was filed, dismissed Matibag's charges as without basis.

Benipayo said the complaint-affidavit was filed before an improper forum, the law department, which does not have jurisdiction over him.

"The law department has no authority over the chairman," Benipayo said.

Neither would Matibag's case prosper in the courts or the Supreme Court because the Comelec was an independent constitutional body, said Benipayo, the former administrator of the high tribunal.

"I am not a subject of that complaint," said Benipayo. "I can only be impeached."

Benipayo said he would not even file a counter-affidavit to answer Matibag's complaint.

Aside from Benipayo, also named respondents were Executive Director Mamasapunod Aguam; Director Velma Cinco, Matibag's designated successor as EID chief; and James Arthur Jimenez, an executive assistant of Benipayo.

Some 10 members of her staff were with Matibag when she filed the complaint. She is apparently still recognized by EID personnel and media persons as EID chief despite her relief.

Matibag's complaint stemmed from an order of Benipayo on April 11 ordering her relief and transfer to the law department "in the exigency of service."

Benipayo designated Cinco as acting chief of the EID and ordered Aguam to implement his order.

Aguam issued the implementation order on April 19.

Jimenez issued a press statement blaming Matibag for the overpricing of printed information materials, factual errors in a published party-list primer, unliquidated cash advances amounting to P2.6 million and absenteeism in news conferences.

In her complaint, Matibag accused Benipayo of violating Article 22 Section 261 of the Omnibus Election Code, which "prohibits the transfer of officers and employees in the civil service within the election period, except upon prior approval of the commission."

Matibag said Benipayo and the co-respondents also violated Comelec Resolution No. 3258, prescribing the calendar of activities and periods of prohibited acts during the election period.

She said Benipayo also violated Civil Service Memorandum Circular No. 07, S.001, which prohibits the transfer and issuance of appointments during the polls.

Matibag was apparently emboldened by a memorandum issued by one of the Comelec's six commissioners, Mehol Sadain, reversing Benipayo's April 11 relief order and effectively reinstating her as EID chief.

Three other commissioners—Luzviminda Tancangco, Rufino Javier and Ralph Lantion—have supported Matibag. *With reports from Mae Lorraine Rafols and Marionne Acabado*

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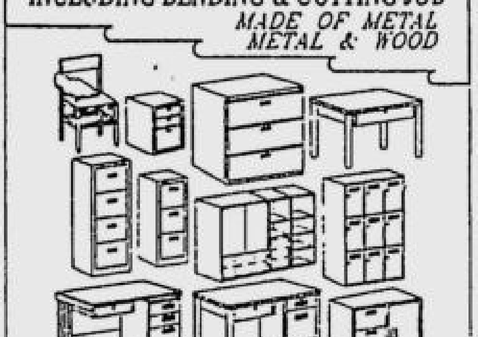

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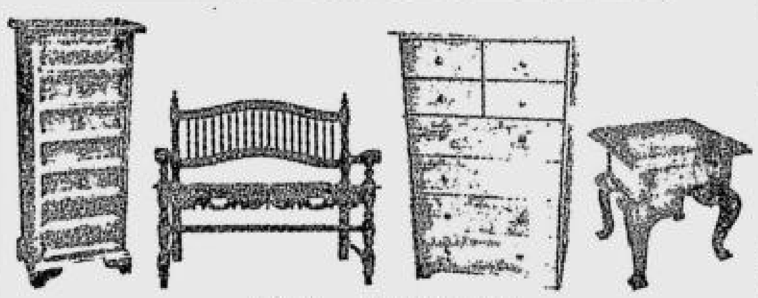

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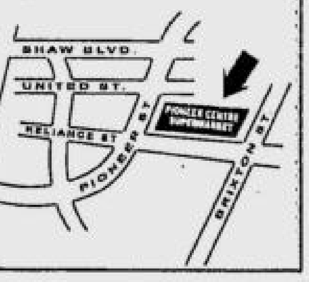

Metro papers, publishers disown NPC quick count

THE METRO Publishers Association yesterday said the press should just report accurately on the elections and not conduct a quick count.

The association warned that the accreditation of the National Press Club by the Commission on Elections to conduct a quick count of the results of the May 14 elections could compromise the credibility of the press over the question of conflict of interest.

It reiterated the position earlier taken by the Philippine Press Institute on the NPC's request for accreditation by the Comelec to conduct a quick count. The Comelec has accredited the NPC and the National Movement for Free Elections to conduct quick counts of the May 14 elections.

In an earlier statement, the PPI said:

- That the primary function of the press is to report accurately events of public concern, including elections, and to serve as the watchdog of the people.
- That it is not the function of the press to participate in the counting of votes in the elections.
- That the press cannot be a participant and a watchdog at the same time.

The Metro Publishers Association is composed of the publishers and editors of the Philippine Daily Inquirer, Philippine Star, BusinessWorld, Malaya, Manila Standard, Today and the Journal Group.

Early this month, the Comelec promulgated a 19-page resolution, allowing Namfrel to conduct its quick count of the votes in the May 14 elections.

With the resolution, the Namfrel is entitled to receive the sixth copy of the election returns, the fourth copy of the municipal certificate of canvass together with the statement of votes, and the fourth copy of the provincial certificate of canvas, per Republic Acts 8436 and 8173.

On the other hand, the NPC, which the Comelec has also accredited to conduct a quick count, shall be given the seventh copy of the certificate of votes for senators, congressmen and the party-list groups.

ESTRADA

Comelec unsure if Estrada has gun permit

By Gerald G. Lacuarta

THE COMMISSION on Elections said it was not sure if it had exempted ousted President Joseph Estrada from the election gun ban as its records on 18,679 individuals who were granted exemptions have not been computerized.

Commissioner Ralph Lantion, who is in charge of the Comelec committee on firearms and security personnel, could not say if Estrada was among the 18,679 who were given certificates of exemption as of April 20.

"I can't remember signing a certificate of application (from Estrada) for exemption from the gun ban but he could have submitted a certificate of application," said Lantion, one of four Comelec commissioners appointed by Estrada.

The Inquirer returned to Lantion to request for the Comelec records on the exemptions, but he declined to be interviewed, saying he had already spoken.

Lantion's staff said the records of the 18,679 individuals who were granted exemptions were still being encoded in their computers, and even this was being delayed by other preparatory activities for the May 14 elections.

"Our computers are also being used for other purposes," a female staff said.

Available records merely showed that of the 37,037 applicants for gun ban exemptions, only 18,679 were approved as of April 20. Among those exempted were 5,943 government employees and officials and 152 private individuals.

Leonard Mann, supervisor of the committee on firearms and security personnel, said Estrada may only be charged with violation of the gun ban if a complaint was filed with the Comelec.

"There has to be someone who will file a complaint against Estrada before we will act on it," Mann said.

Without an exemption certificate, private individuals and law enforcement officers not on official duty may not carry firearms outside of their places of residence or business during the election period, which started on Jan. 2 and ends on June 13.

Violators face imprisonment of one to six years under the Omnibus Election Code.

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Castro can't expect help from PCGG

(From page A1)

to explain why he introduced himself as an agent of the PCGG. And he's selling those gold certificates—that's fraud," a well-placed source at the PCGG said yesterday.

"Why should we help him? There's a bigger chance that the PCGG would sanction him than help him because he misrepresented himself and put the agency in a bad light," the source said.

Castro, who chaired the PCGG a decade ago, was arrested after he allegedly tried to sell a $20-million gold certificate to an undercover agent of the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

He was said to have claimed that the certificates he was holding were part of the $800-million Marcos gold in the Federal Reserve and in the Union Bank of Switzerland (UBS).

Another man, Edilberto Marcos, who was passing himself off as an illegitimate son of the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos, was also arrested.

Justice Secretary Hernando Perez yesterday said his department would check on the authenticity of the alleged Marcos gold certificates held by Castro.

Perez said that if these certificates were proven to be genuine, the administration of President Macapagal-Arroyo would also want to know what were the other documents Castro was holding, and why.

"We are checking on whether what he has are really genuine certificates. If these are genuine certificates, we don't know how he got possession of these," Perez told reporters in Malacañang.

"Considering that he used to be the chief of the PCGG, we want to know also what are the other documents that went into his possession, or has there been an inventory of certificates in the possession of the government?" he said.

PCGG acting chair Jorge Sarmiento confirmed the other day that the David Castro arrested in New York was "one and the same" as the David Castro who chaired the PCGG from 1990 to 1991.

The FBI had sought the PCGG's assistance in identifying the man who was arrested by the undercover agent.

Sarmiento, however, denied that the PCGG had anything to do with Castro's dealings, or that the gold certificates he carried were authentic and taken from the PCGG during his stint in the agency.

Sarmiento was in Malacañang yesterday to discuss the matter, as well as other PCGG issues, with the President.

The government has denied that it commissioned Castro to conduct any transactions in New York.

Taken from PCGG

A source told the INQUIRER that the certificates Castro was holding, as well as the UBS certificate, were authentic.

They were supposedly taken from the PCGG during Castro's tenure.

The source said another PCGG official, incumbent administrator for finance and administration Danilo Daniel, was somehow involved as he had also been giving information to parties abroad on the Marcos wealth.

The source went to the FBI to report on what he knew about Castro and Edilberto Marcos.

Records provided by sources showed that "Edilberto Marcos" is also known as Edilberto Marcos del Carmen and Alberto Puzon.

The source, an intelligence agent and former trusted man of the late dictator, said Edilberto Marcos was a "former MISG (Military Intelligence Service Group) operative under then Lt. Panfilo Lacson."

"Lacson, through his former close associate, then Sgt. Flory Estrada, disbursing officer of Col. Rolando Abadilla, introduced David Castro to Puzon," the source said.

He said Castro had even requested a US senator to issue Del Carmen or Puzon a US visa in Hong Kong.

"Castro is using the original bank certificate of the late President Marcos as his leverage with the US government to go scot-free," the source said.

"There were five certificates that he got. Two were from the UBS. The $800-million certificate was the biggest," the source said.

He said the significance of the certificate was that it served as a tracer for the banks holding Marcos accounts.

"In exchange for his freedom, Castro is using that certificate as his leverage," the source said, adding that everything would be pinned on Edilberto Marcos.

On Oct. 24 last year, the National Bureau of Investigation faxed to the International Police in Hong Kong a report that the NBI had received a complaint filed by a Japanese national, Nakanishi Takamasa, against Edilberto Marcos for "financial fraud" or swindling.

The NBI report was sent by Ricardo Diaz, chief of the NBI Interpol division.

According to the NBI report, Edilberto Marcos, who is holding Philippine Passport No. EE835334, lured Takamasa and his group to invest in a "roll program project" involving the trading of gold between Taiwan, Hong Kong and the Philippines in the "total amount of US$1 million."

"Said project turned out to be spurious. During the month of January 2000, subject conducted his illegal activities at Hyatt Hotel in Hong Kong and presented forged documents pertaining to his business holdings in Hong Kong," the NBI report said.

The NBI then requested the Interpol to verify Edilberto Marcos' immigration status and his presence in Hong Kong.

"Once deported, he will be arrested and prosecuted for financial fraud committed in the Philippines," Diaz said.

Digging up papers

Following a request by the FBI, the Department of Foreign Affairs has instructed the Philippine consulates in New York and Hong Kong to verify the true identity of Edilberto Marcos.

DFA spokesperson Victoriano Lecaros said the DFA also ordered the two consular offices to determine whether Edilberto Marcos' claim of being a son of the late dictator was true.

"The DFA consular offices are digging up papers that would confirm his identity," Lecaros said.

Lecaros also said the Philippine government would not offer legal aid to either Edilberto Marcos or Castro.

"With all the money they have, they can even buy the consulate and all the equipment it needs," Lecaros said.

With a report from Rocky Nazareno

Please pass the rice

(From page A1)

advertising agency Ogilvy & Mather Philippines has shown that despite the "burger culture" and the proliferation of fast-food joints, most Filipinos still consider a meal incomplete without the good old staple.

The study, which was conducted last year and based on 6,000 interviews and 220 focus groups across 13 markets, found that 86 percent of Filipinos would deem a meal "proper" only if it included rice.

"Also, a meal without a dry and a wet texture is considered incomplete," said Mayee Parungao, brand planner of the agency.

Parungao said the study also showed that family meals had been so redefined that the week would not be complete without a trip to McDonald's or Jollibee.

The two fast-food chains have both included rice meals in their menus.

But the study uncovered a disturbing facet in Filipinos' eating habits. They "neutralize" good food by eating bad food (for example, they justify eating pork every day by saying they always have fruits on the table, anyway).

Parungao said the study, titled "Eating Disorders," was conducted last year by Ogilvy Planners using the nontraditional approach of joining Filipino families in their homes and in their shopping trips to the markets.

She said the unconventional research method required 56 accompanied shopping trips and an analysis of more than 500 food diaries.

"We had long, informal yet substantial *kuwentuhan* (chat) sessions with housewives about their life surrounding food," Parungao said.

"They even gave us a guided tour of their dirty kitchen and pantry, aside from letting us taste their own cooking and read their food diaries," she said.

Fried food

The study found that the most common and frequently cooked dishes were fried and stir-fried.

"Fried and fatty food are consumed without much thought or consideration," Parungao said. "Most of the respondents said their most frequently consumed meals are fried, thereby misusing and abusing the concept of emergency."

Parungao said any unplanned meal conveniently treated as an "emergency" then justified the use of "instant food" such as corned beef or *tocino* (cured meat).

Miles Young, chair of Ogilvy & Mather Asia Pacific, said the local study, which was part of a research across 21 cities in 14 countries in the Asia Pacific, was relevant in that it revealed stress in a host of food-related decisions.

"More important, it calls on governments to take action and on food marketers to better address consumer needs," she said.

Young said that historically, marketers had tackled food branding by segmentation techniques, finding a need and providing a solution such as convenience foods for busy people.

"The study suggests that marketers need to go beyond this traditional methodology to uncover and cope with the stresses that transcend gender, class, age and race," Young said.

Packaging

Parungao said the study also showed that the use of certain words in packaging labels was another concern to be addressed not only by the government but by manufacturers as well.

She said a number of brands claiming that their products were fortified or nutritious only tended to confuse consumers even more, if they were not causing enough stress already.

"Healthy in the Philippines connotes a fat man in a Hawaiian shirt, but to a Singaporean, it implies going to the gym every day," she said.

The study found that stress was also caused by a series of trade-offs emerging with each decision relating to food.

It noted, for instance, that the desire for the traditional family meal was still very strong, but that people were anxious about the lack of time and inclination as well as the loss of traditional cooking skills.

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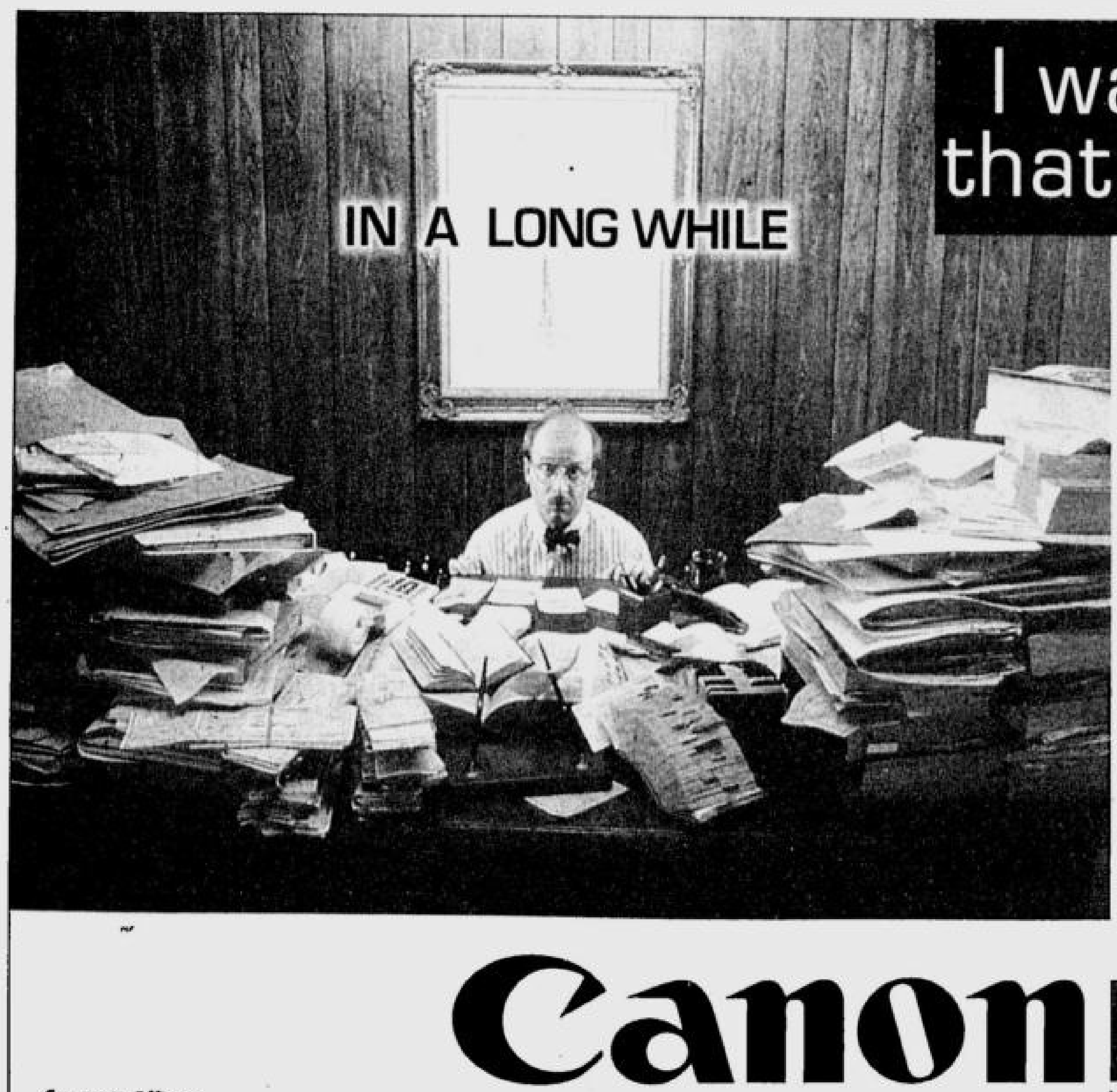

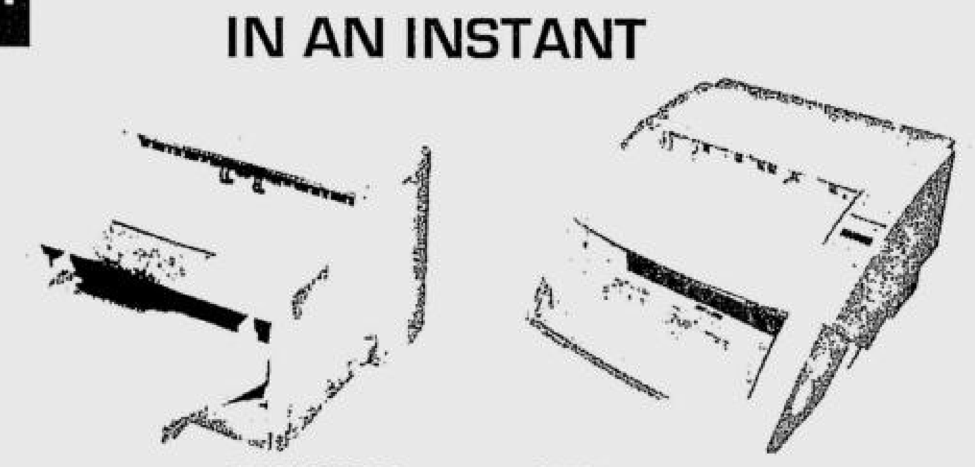

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PPC bets survive hairy encounter with Erap fans

POLOMOLOK, South Cotabato—As if being snubbed by some of their Puwersa ng Masa counterparts during a plane ride was not enough, seven People Power Coalition senatorial candidates had to endure a hairy encounter with angry supporters of deposed President Joseph Estrada.

Stopping at the public market here during the first day of their 13-day cross-country "victory run" on Monday, the PPC bets were welcomed by their supporters and pro-Estrada hecklers who gave them the "thumbs down" sign.

PPC bets Franklin Drilon and Francis Pangilinan had just climbed into the back of a pickup truck which doubled as a makeshift stage when the jeering commenced.

But PPC candidate Manny Villar said it was only a handful of Estrada supporters, some of whom were drunk, who heckled them.

"Many in the crowd greeted us warmly. There was just a few in the pro-Estrada crowd who were quite animated with us," he told reporters.

Villar said one of the drunken ones even tried to grab another PPC bet, Liwayway Vinzons-Chato.

Chato denied this and made light of the incident.

"They're entitled to feel that way," she said while lamenting that the people were acting this way out of their "hero worship" for Estrada.

She said this was the reason for the PPC's going to Mindanao, the first stop of their "victory run," to "get the people's hearts and minds and convince them that Estrada was a false hero."

Chato said all she could do when confronted by such incidents is to say "God bless you." She also said she would pray for the people involved so that they would be enlightened.

Asked to confirm a report that someone tried to hit him at the market, PPC candidate Ralph Recto said he was not aware of it.

Recto said he was still inside the van when somebody reminded him to close the window.

He said Drilon was able to wrestle from an Estrada supporter a yellow paper sign which read "0-13 Erap Pa Rin Kami."

Villar, Chato and Recto agreed that the incident as well as the turnout in the first day of their cross-country turn only showed that they had more supporters than Estrada.

They said they suspected that the incident at the market was orchestrated by Estrada allies to embarrass the pro-administration candidates.

Chato wondered how in a "spontaneous rally" someone would arrive with a pro-Estrada sign with them.

Villar speculated that some of the hecklers had been given a round of drinks before embarking on their mischief.

By contrast, the PPC candidates arrived to a warm reception in a packed gymnasium in Isulan town.

They were to proceed to Kidapawan and other Moro Islamic Liberation Front strongholds late yesterday. *Christine Avendaño*

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DE CASTRO

MERCADO

Orly, Noli shrug off Enrile 'junking'

BY D. PAZZIBUGAN

FORMER defense secretary Orly Mercado says he is not bothered by reports that fellow opposition senatorial candidate Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile is junking him and fellow guest opposition candidate Noli de Castro for allegedly being *balimbing* (turncoats).

Mercado said he is taking Enrile's remark in stride as he does not feel alluded to. De Castro, a former broadcaster like Mercado, refused to comment on the report.

In a phone interview with the INQUIRER, Mercado said he will still endorse Enrile and the rest of the opposition ticket.

"Why would they call me *balimbing*? *Di naman ako nakinabang*. I could have had a comfortable ride in the senatorial campaign but I resigned out of principle," he said.

Mercado and the military's act of withdrawing their support from ousted President Joseph Estrada during the Edsa 2 revolt hastened Estrada's decision to step down.

Although retained by President Macapagal-Arroyo as defense secretary, he resigned shortly in protest of the appointment of his predecessor Lisandro Abadia as national security adviser.

Mercado had accused Abadia of large-scale malversation of military retirement funds.

"I'm not affected by Manong Johnny's remark. I'll continue to endorse him. I don't have any quarrel with him," Mercado went on.

"It's no big deal. If some people don't endorse me, I'll continue to endorse him. *Hindi naman sinasagot ng galit yan*. In a collegial body like the Senate, disagreements are part of the dynamics," said Mercado, who had worked with Enrile before in the Senate.

Enrile, during a rally in Olongapo City Friday night, did not endorse Mercado and De Castro.

He referred to them as members of the "Samahan ng mga Balimbings."

Enrile said he was no longer endorsing De Castro since he is not campaigning for the slate anyway.

De Castro did not comment on the report. Instead, he issued a press statement appealing to all candidates "to follow the path of peace and reason" in the conduct of the campaign.

De Castro, who has consistently topped surveys conducted by various research groups on the senatorial derby, issued the call amid reports that close to 20 people have died in election-related violence throughout the country.

He also urged the electorate to reject political aspirants who maintain their own private armies and prefer to win through the barrel of the gun.

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Slain UP student graduates posthumously

By Pamela Herrera and Abigail Pajarito
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

BAGUIO CITY—Slain University of the Philippines Baguio student Giancarlo Leung was finally granted yesterday a posthumous degree in mass communication after the university's board of regents approved his graduation Monday afternoon.

Lota Leung, Giancarlo's mother, received his diploma from UP officials led by UP Baguio Dean Priscilla Macansantos and Dr. Sergio Cao, UP assistant vice president for planning and development.

Leung and another UP Baguio graduate, Tihani Tingal, were abducted in this city on March 8 and killed by their captors. Their bodies were found three days later in Mexico, Pampanga.

A standing ovation from 332 graduates at the Baguio Convention Center met Leung's mother as she received his diploma.

"It is with pride that I received Gian's diploma even if he couldn't be here himself," the mother said. "My son really worked hard during his last year in college."

UP Baguio's University Council, composed of senior faculty members, earlier approved Leung's graduation after finding that he had met all academic requirements before his death.

However, UP President Francisco Nemenzo deferred approval of the graduation, pending further deliberation by the board of regents, university's highest policy-making body.

LEUNG

Without knowing that the board of regents had approved the graduation through a referendum among its members on Monday afternoon, President Macapagal-Arroyo urged yesterday morning university officials to include the name of Leung in the roster of the graduating students.

The President also said she had directed the Department of Interior and Local Government to conduct a "full dress" investigation of the killing of Leung and Tingal.

"The experience is bittersweet," said Leung's mother. "It was a very fleeting moment to be up there in front, it's just fulfilling for our family and for Gian's memories that I was able to go up there and get his diploma at the time when he was supposed to get it," she said.

Leung's father Charles said he felt relieved that UP officials had granted the family's request to grant a posthumous degree to his son.

"We went through a lot of mishaps... It is part of our consolation to enrich our memories with what he worked for," he said.

But he added: "The saddest thing is that it wouldn't benefit my son anymore."

Revival of aviation advisory group set

THE DEPARTMENT of Transportation and Communication is set to revive a consultative group composed of government agencies and private sector entities to set policy reforms and review government plans on civil aviation.

The Civil Aviation Consultative Council (CACC) is expected to recommend the promotion of the Philippines as a hub for air travel and cargo markets in the Asia-Pacific region with selected Philippine cities acting as transfer/transit gateways or transshipment hubs.

The country's progressive air liberalization policy will also be reviewed with focus on efforts to obtain adequate but rationalized frequency and capacity rights on specific international route.

In a resolution, the group during its Centennial Aviation Conference in 1998, said that over capacity should not take place on any given route, which would lead to ruinous competition and distract local carriers from their mission to provide airline services at economic, convenient, and sustainable levels.

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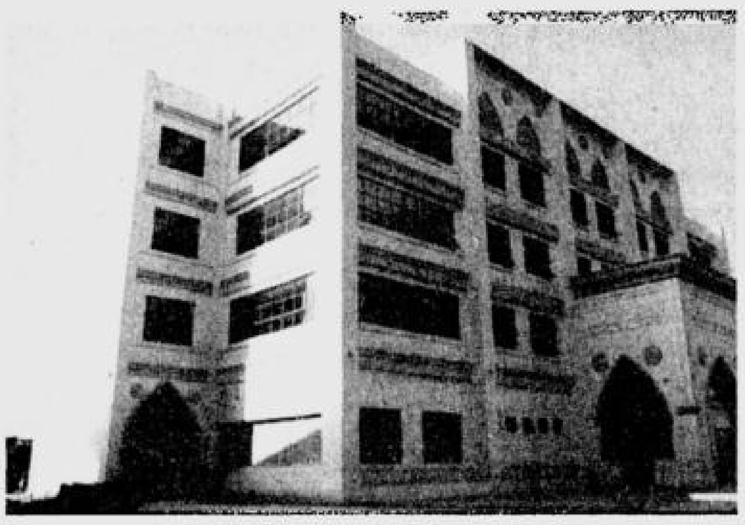

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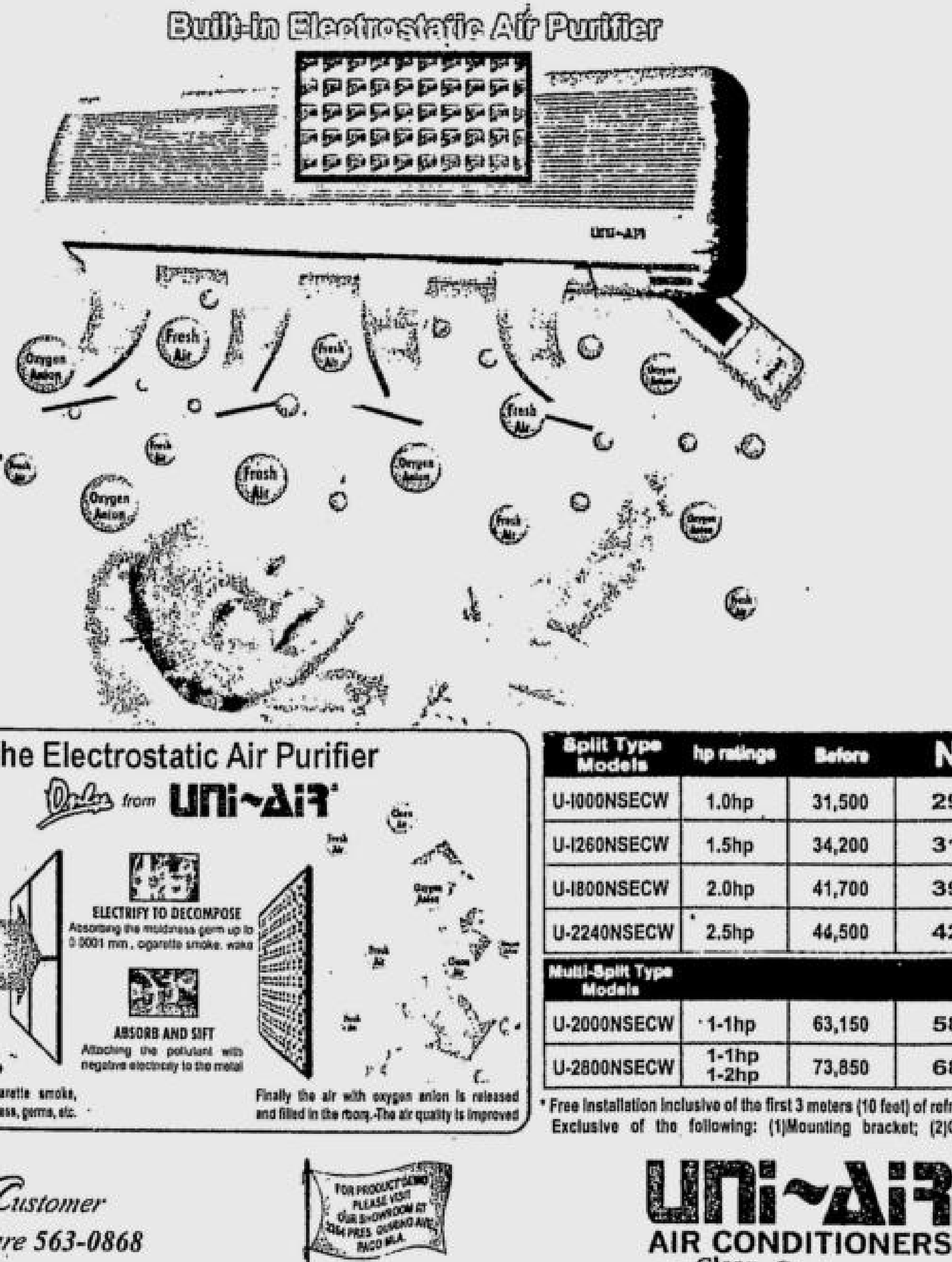

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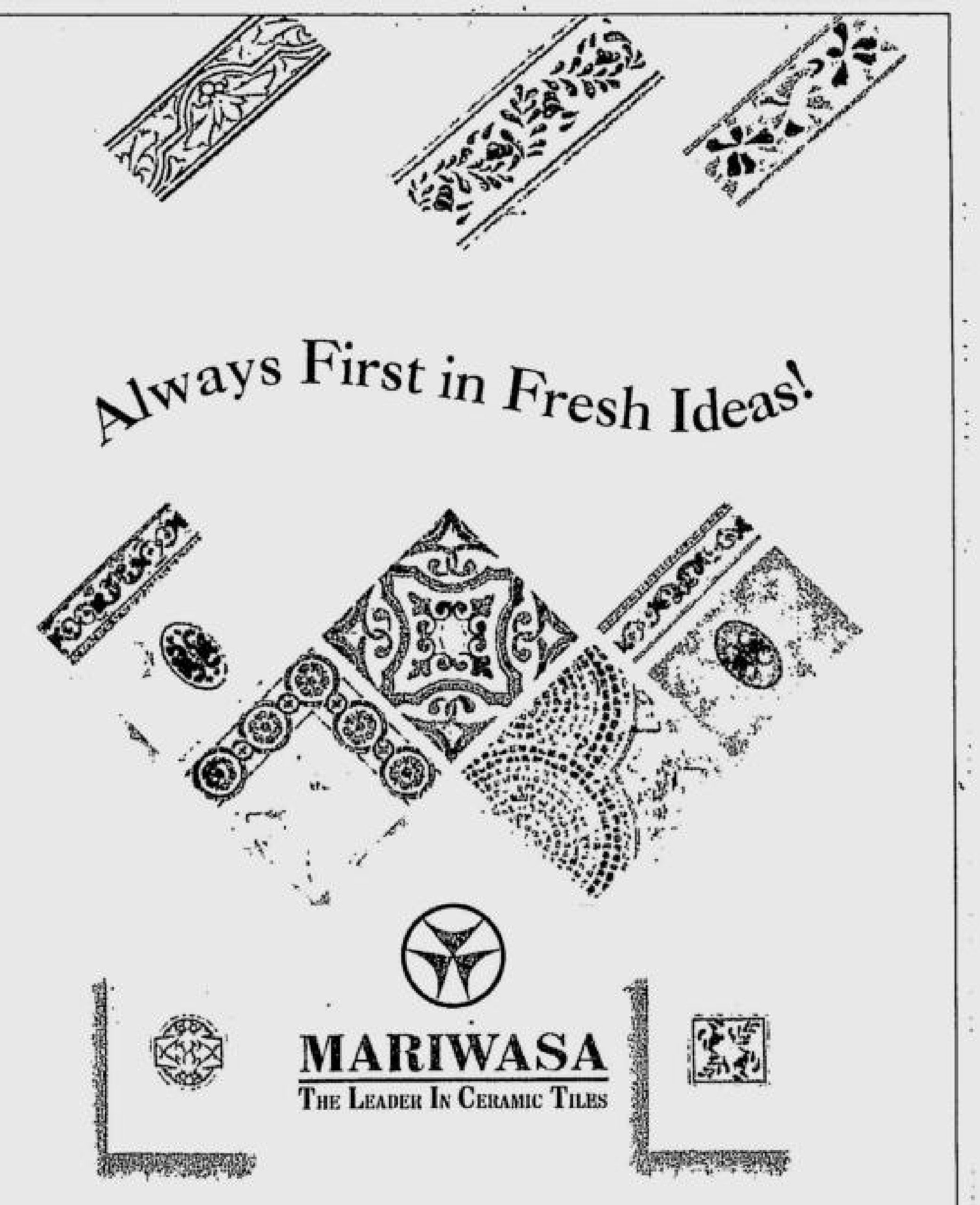
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CAREER FAIR

Job hunting made easy at Glorietta

By Marinel R. Cruz

MORE than 90 companies and some 4,000 job seekers participated in the INQUIRER'S Job Market Career Fair 2001, at the Glorietta Activity Center on its first day on Monday.

The three-day job fair, which ends today, is in keeping with Job Market's vision of providing better employment opportunities to fresh graduates and young professionals.

Job Market, which comes free with the INQUIRER every Sunday, is the paper's response to the growing need of job seekers to find employment and to local companies' demand for fresh talents in their work force.

Cebu Pacific, the country's second biggest airline and one of the companies participating in the job fair, received over 700 applications on the first day alone, said its manager for Personnel Administration, Claudia Soriano.

Cebu Pacific is hiring people for a planned expansion later in the year.

"For now, we only offer domestic flights. This additional recruitment of personnel is for our upcoming international operation," she said.

Anna Pallero, assistant manager for Recruitment and Placement of Insular Life Insurance, said she is pleased with the positive turnout for the fair, which she considers a good venue to inform people of the company's office transfer to Alabang.

"We are also able to inform people of our preference for applicants living in Parañaque, Cavite, Laguna and places near our new office," she said.

For 22-year-old Hans Cubillan, who is taking up economics at the University of Asia and the Pacific, the fair is a big help to job seekers like him.

He said it allows job seekers to fill up resumés and hand them out to companies without much legwork.

He said job postings at each corner of the job fair area really help as it allows one to immediately know which company to zoom in to.

To apply for a job at a Job Market fair, an applicant can either secure a copy of the latest issue of Job Market at the information booth or look at the panel boards for job postings.

Upon selecting, the applicant can then go to the booths of any of the exhibitor companies, fill up the required forms and submit his resumé. Pigeonholes are provided for applications to companies that are non-exhibitors.

Moreover, the applicant can also use any of the 15 computers set up in the area to include more personal and professional information to his application form through Job Market's Resumé Reserve. The feature also includes a special forwarding option that will automatically send a copy of his resumé to the company he wishes to apply in.

The INQUIRER'S Job Market revolutionized the idea of job seeking when it introduced the "mini job fair" concept in the Philippines in November 1998.

Seventy companies participated in the experiment held in Glorietta IV of the Ayala Center. Some 5,000 resumés were gathered out of only three computers set up at the venue.

The success of the experiment led the INQUIRER to host job fairs yearly with last year's "Job Market Online Expo" focusing on Job Market's upgraded website, www.jobmarketonline.com. The event gathered close to 8,000 resumés.

Millions of books ready for delivery

SOME P1.3 billion worth of textbooks will be waiting on the doorsteps of public schools all over the country as Education Secretary Raul Roco vowed to deliver instructional materials in time for the opening of classes this June—for a change.

Roco made the announcement shortly after the opening of the Educators' Congress in Manila on Monday, pledging to oversee the delivery of the books directly to campuses, contrary to the common practice of having the regional offices of the Department of Education, Culture and Sports handle the distribution.

"The schools, the children will directly receive the textbooks," Roco said, adding the DECS officials would be going around to facilitate the distribution.

The instructional materials due for delivery were the ones procured using the P1.3-billion budget of the DECS from the General Appropriations Act, which the former DECS administration said would be enough to purchase 30 million instructional materials.

Roco said 70 percent of the textbooks have been acquired and are prepared for delivery now, but the DECS was awaiting the complete package so it would not have problems with the distribution, especially among the provinces.

The DECS has been criticized for the delayed delivery of instructional materials over the past years, depriving schoolchildren of the chance to use the books the whole year.

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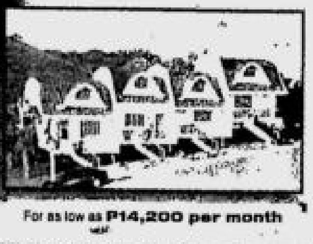

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Murder Inc.

EDITORIAL

THE POLICEMEN who abducted, tortured and murdered publicist Salvador Dacer and his driver Emmanuel Corbito were told it was a "legitimate police operation." They were made to believe the two were big-time drug traffickers and leaders of a kidnap-for-ransom gang, and only when the media came out with the identities of the victims the following day did they realize how wrong they were.

That was how most of the more than a dozen members of the now defunct Presidential Anti-Organized Crime Task Force (PAOCTF) tried to explain the involvement of agents in the well-publicized kidnapping and murder case, according to PNP Director General Leandro Mendoza and NBI Director Reynaldo Wycoco.

Of course, the whole operation was wrong from beginning to end—terribly wrong. In a society that claims to observe due process and to subscribe to the rule of law, kidnapping, torture and murder are never legitimate—not even if the victims are notorious criminals. But curiously, neither of the two top law-enforcement officials found it fit to point this out at least for the benefit of their subordinates who may be laboring under the same mind-set. Could it be that they too believe that sometimes murder isn't foul?

If so, then they are no different from the mindless automatons in the police force who carry out orders without question, like those PAOCTF agents and their immediate superiors. If so, there is no hope for reform. If so, Filipinos will always be at the mercy of the very same officers whom they are paying to protect their lives.

This "mind-set for murder," as INQUIRER columnist Randy David calls it, seems to pervade the police force. Hardly a week passes now when a police officer is not involved in a crime of violence. Earlier this month, for instance, the headless bodies of three teenagers were found near the gate of a middle-class village in Quezon City. One of the victims was said to be a cellphone snatcher. Another was a recent honor graduate of the New Era High School without any record of getting into trouble. The third remains unidentified to this day. Who abducted them and had them killed and beheaded? Two policemen assigned to the Central Police District.

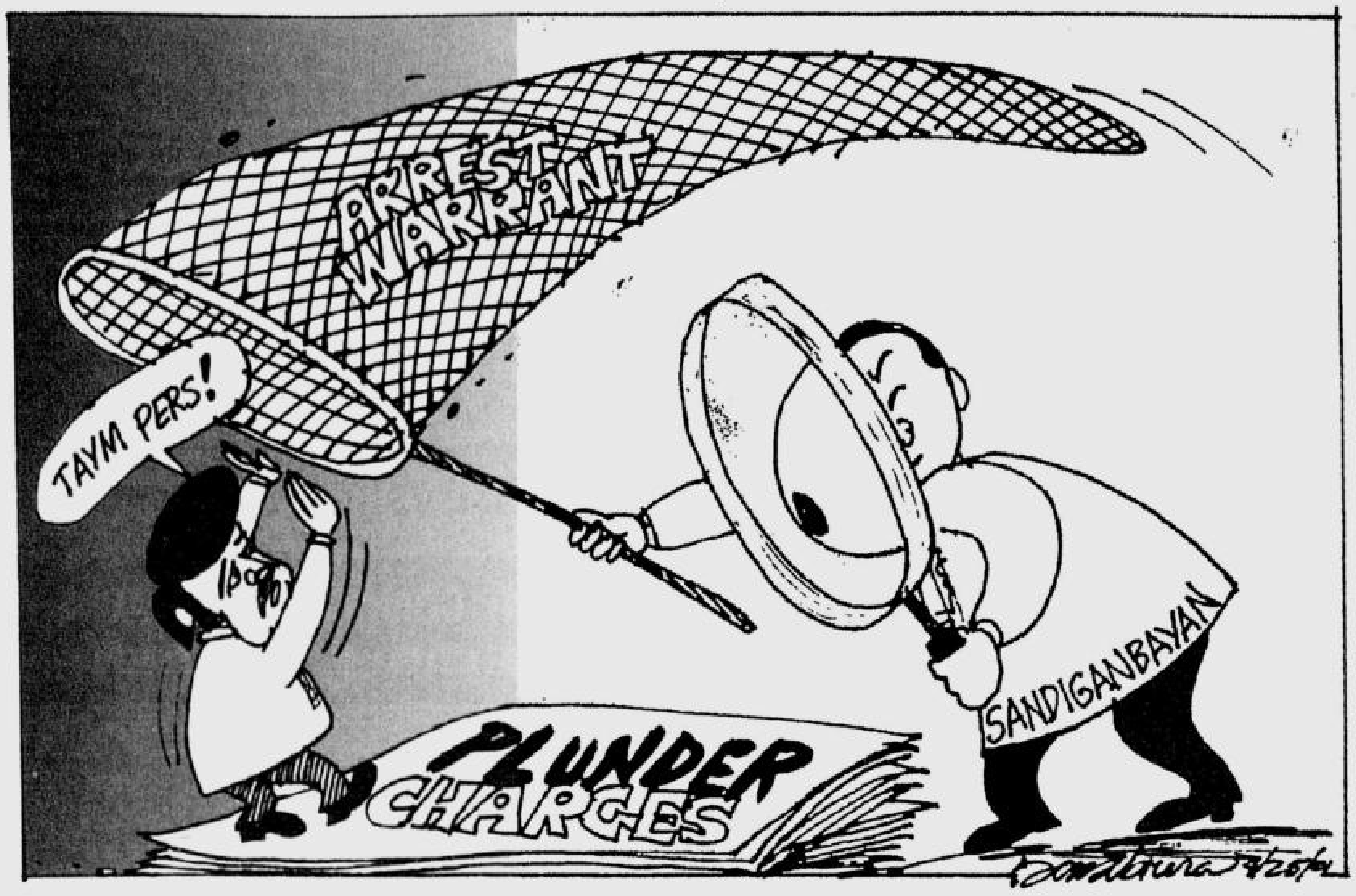
The PAOCTF experience provides perhaps a more chilling demonstration of how shooting suspects quickly progresses to outright murder. In their earlier career as members of the Presidential Anti-Crime Commission under then Vice President Joseph Estrada, some of the officers and men of the PAOCTF were accused of "salvaging" 11 alleged members of the notorious Kuratong Baleleng holdup and kidnap gang, including a 14-year-old boy from Ozamiz City who was spending his vacation with relatives in Metro Manila. Some of the victims had their hands tied, indicating that they had been mercilessly murdered, but everyone involved was eventually exonerated by the Office of the Ombudsman. Estrada himself said the victims "deserved to die," and many people, including members of the media heartily agreed.

When Estrada became president, among his first acts was to create the PAOCTF under Chief Supt. Panfilo Lacson, the head of the task force that carried out the alleged rubout of captured Kuratong Baleleng suspects. The PNP would later disclose that PAOCTF officers and men were involved in drug trafficking, real estate fraud and, of course, salvaging. But this was only after several PAOCTF members confessed their participation in the Dacer abduction and murder and when Lacson had resigned as chief of the PAOCTF and the PNP. Now no one is inclined to applaud what the PAOCTF has done.

But how much different really is the killing of Dacer from that of the Mindanao teenager—or even the other alleged Kuratong Baleleng gang members? Dacer was not accused of any crime, but those alleged gang members were also presumed innocent in the eyes of the law. We tolerate or even applaud the massacre of suspects, and before long we will have innocent people being murdered. And next time, the victims could well be us.

After the Kuratong massacre, those who called for respect for human rights by agents of the law and demanded justice for the victims were dismissed as bleeding hearts. What are those stout-hearted people saying now that the innocent are dying? They may be asking like the rest of us: Who will protect us against our protectors?

The fear is for real. And it will not go away until the police and other law enforcers prove that they have overcome their mind-set for murder by going after their own who show no respect for human lives and human rights.



Upheaval likely to cause greater caution

NEWS ANALYSIS

Steve Kirby

HANOI—The ouster of conservative ideologue Le Kha Phieu from Vietnam's top job has removed a key brake on the communist regime's economic reforms, but his successor Nong Duc Manh is unlikely to rush into any changes, analysts said Monday.

The ruling communist party has always put an enormous accent on continuity and consensus and the new leader is likely to batten down the hatches after the bitter behind-the-scenes feuding which led to his appointment, they said.

In his acceptance speech on Sunday, the 60-year-old Manh was careful to say nothing that might offend either side of Vietnam's long-standing divide between conservative ideologues and economic reformers, diplomats noted.

His tirade against corruption and other abuses within the party's ranks, whose eradication he said would be his No. 1 task, would have sat quite happily in the mouth of his ousted predecessor.

"It was vintage Phieu," one diplomat told the AFP.

The ousted conservative made the war on graft a constant refrain although his critics say he paid little more than lip service to the problem, with a string of widely publicized crackdowns which were perceived as having targeted minor officials while leaving the big fish untouched.

By contrast the new party chief made scant mention of Vietnam's 15-year-old market reforms, which slowed down sharply with his predecessor's appointment in the midst of the Asian financial crisis of 1997.

He made no reference to the government's International Monetary Fund and World Bank-backed plans to step up the pace of reforms through the liberalization of trade and the rationalization of the state-owned industrial and banking sectors.

But diplomats noted that the new party chief had never been a champion of economic reform—his career was built precisely on offending neither side of Vietnam's political divide.

"We really shouldn't expect too many changes in Vietnamese policy," one Western diplomat said.

"Mr. Manh is a lifelong apparatchik whose ideological orthodoxy has never been questioned."

The leading reformer within the regime, Prime Minister Phan Van Khai himself sounded a note of caution Saturday, insisting that the government would continue to tread carefully with its market reforms for fear of exposing the state-controlled economy to destabilizing shocks.

"You may know that in some countries when they had a crisis in the economy, it caused political instability. Vietnam is trying to avoid that," he said.

The éminence grise of Vietnam's reformers, former prime minister Vo Van Kiet, echoed his protégé's comments. "The adjustments we have made must be step by step," he said.

The caution of the new leadership will be all the greater in the face of persistent rural unrest which was a leading factor in the ouster of Phieu.

A wave of protests among the mainly Christian ethnic minorities of the central highlands sparked an army crackdown in early February that constituted the worst violence in years.

The unrest has been all the more shocking for a ruling party which has always justified its tight control as providing a haven of stability in an increasingly unstable neighborhood.

"The scale of the unrest has really shaken them. They've bitten the bullet over the party leader, but you really shouldn't expect too many other changes," another diplomat said.

A Western banker cautioned that it was easy to exaggerate the importance of individual personalities in a country which had long taken its decisions collectively.

"It's Vietnam's great strength and also its greatest weakness," the banker told the AFP.

"On the one hand you know that once they have reached a decision, they will deliver on it regardless of any changes in personnel.

"On the other hand, it can take an ice age to get there because they are always going to move at the pace of the lowest common denominator."

AFP

Single

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

I DON'T know if I told this story before. But a priest told me a couple of years ago during a wedding about how the recruitment of priests fell in Catanduanes. Historically, he said, the Bicol region has been the biggest supplier of priests in this country, the Bicol youth turning out in huge numbers to become seminarians. When he said this, I remembered the fervor with which Bicolanos paid tribute to "Ina," the Virgin of Peñafrancia, during the fiesta there in September. I also remembered the hush that falls on the place during Lent, as the kids would disappear from the streets, and no one would be left to inherit the burning asphalt but stray toads and lizards.

And of all Bicol, Catanduanes provided the biggest number of priests. They tumbled out like a flood every year and ended up in various seminaries in the region. Some of them did so simply to get an education, which the seminaries also offered amid their Spartan regimens. But many others were filled with true vocation, and never took a vacation from it, temporary or permanent.

That was how it was for decades until about five years ago. Suddenly, five years ago, the number of applicants to the seminaries from Catanduanes dramatically fell. Nobody could explain it at first, since no great changes had taken place in the lives of the people there. The place remained home to typhoons, agricultural somnolence and a formidable Church presence, not necessarily in that order of impact. And the recruitment policies of seminaries had not changed at all. They were as aggressive as ever. They had even taken to advertising for priests, the way the US Army advertised for soldiers.

But as people found out later on, a great change had taken place in the lives of people there. Into the place had been introduced something that took on the aspect of the forbidden fruit itself. That was Cable TV.

I remembered that story when I read the letter of Edward Kelly last Friday. (PDI, 4/20/01) I don't know if Kelly is a priest himself, or a former one. But he certainly knows a great deal about them, and Church policies about them.

These days, he says, the Catholic Church has precious little choice but to allow priests to marry. "The shortage of priests worldwide is at a critical level," he says. Parishes are being closed down for lack of priests, and those that are not are hurrying their spiritual overseers to meet their Maker from overwork. The culprit is the vow of celibacy, which in fact was no big deal with Jesus Christ but was a big deal with St. Peter's successors in the 11th century who etched it in tablet. The works of God may not be undone but those of man can. Many theologians have already argued so, saying the objections to abandoning the vow of celibacy, like the need for priests to be holy and to be available at all times to the flock, were outweighed by the need of priests to be human and to be available to themselves at least some of the time. A pity, they say, that thousands of eminently worthy youth with strong missionary calling turn away from the priesthood not because they fear self-sacrifice but because they fear self-torment.

I don't know how critical the shortage of priests is in this country. I suspect, if the story about the drastic decline of seminarians in Bicol is anything to go by, that it must not be far from the global average. Someone raised the same alarm in Cebu, bastion of Catholicism in the south, perhaps in the whole country, when I was there last month.

Of course there is something to be said for priests remaining single, which is that reports of the bliss or comfort of marriage are often grossly exaggerated. I don't know that our ancestors weren't being a little ironic when they described getting married as "*lumagay sa tahimik*," or embracing the tranquil life. There is nothing in the turbulence of being single to compare with the one of being coupled. Ideally, people who wish to embark on extraordinary projects should spare themselves ordinary cares. Ideally, people who want to embark on other worldly quests should not be burdened by very worldly chores. But so, ideally. Few people, other than martyrs and saints, can live up to that ideal without falling prey to complexes. Many are called but few are chosen, true, but do you have to add 11th-century prejudices among the criteria for choosing?

I don't know that marriage, or the freedom at least to choose it, won't in fact improve the quality of the stock, quite apart from the quantity of it. Protestant ministers for one have shown that marriage is not the plague the Catholic clergy have deemed it to be—or no more so than it is with everybody else. I should think it should help give priests get new insights into the moral predicament of their flock. At the very least, in the area of marriage itself. I've always found it a little odd that priests should be doing marriage counseling, which is a case of the blind leading the blind.

I know my theology professor used to say that you do not have to murder a person to know that it is wrong. But there are obvious limits to the argument. You do need to get laid to appreciate its utter bliss, if not its finer aesthetic points. You do need to get married to appreciate its utter purgatory, if not its more hellish aspects.

The advantages are legion. It should give priests—and bishops—new ways of appreciating what is moral and immoral in life. Of course you get to marry a Sonia or Etta, and that is arguable, but that is another story. It should help improve the finances of the parish—wives have been known to be very good at husbanding resources. And above all, it should help priests give more effective sermons in church by taking pointers from their wives when they come home late at night.

Of course there's the other matter of women themselves becoming priests. But I leave the women's groups to talk about that.

* * *

There are three reasons to go to Bistro 70s tonight. One is Noel Cabangon: It is Wednesday, which is when he sings there. Two and three are Bobby Tañada and Winnie Monsod. Noel is contributing tonight's gig to them to help them out in their campaign. Good citizens and good musicians often go together. Nice songs, nice people, nice (because cheap) food and drinks. Have a nice time.

Now, about the sound system….

* * *

Comments are welcome at dequiros@vasia.com

Sandiganbayan should order speedy arrest

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

THE SANDIGANBAYAN'S Third Division, headed by Justice Anacleto Badoy, should not delay further the serving of a warrant of arrest on former President Estrada as this will only heighten the prevailing unrest and the perception of political instability. We should get the arrest over with as soon as possible, as this is after all inevitable, so that the nation could settle down to the trial of Estrada. Delaying arrest is only giving the Erap camp time to build up resistance, which will only cause more problems for the state.

* * *

The Senate impeachment trial succeeded in ferreting out heavily documented evidence against Estrada amounting to 32 folders, which were submitted to the Sandiganbayan. Because the entire nation followed the trial, everyone knows there is more than probable cause—the ground for the issuance of an arrest order. The trouble is that the lawyers of Estrada are out to delay his arrest in every way and the justices could be playing their game on the ground that they don't want to be bamboozled to come to a decision. The lawyers' recent petition to stay arrest for 10 days on the argument that the plunder case is defective and ought to be sent back to the Ombudsman is one such obvious ploy.

The graft court has to act more decisively. Let's get on with the arrest and the trial. By the way, citizens are clamoring for a fully televised Sandigan trial, just like the impeachment trial. A transparent trial not only will help in the political education of the citizens, it will also ensure that the justices act in an upright manner.

* * *

Ilocos Norte Gov. Chavit Singson was obviously referring to Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago when he said that the "lunatics" ought to be kept out of the Senate. Lately Santiago has been making lunatic pronouncements, such as shooting herself at the Luneta if a 13-0 result in favor of the PPC is obtained, or that she'd commit suicide by jumping out of the plane without a parachute if Erap is arrested. Miriam's pa-cute statements are obviously made to gain media mileage, but there is cause to worry on the effect on young minds of her pushing suicide as a way to handle problems. There are parents who have a tough time dealing with this social problem of suicidal tendencies among the young, and Miriam is being totally irresponsible in her statements.

* * *

Conrad de Quiros relates how some friends campaigning during the first post Edsa I elections for "New Politics" were flabbergasted to realize that when the votes were counted, some voters had indeed voted for "New Politics" for senator. Conrad now wonders if the televised counsel to "Vote Wisely," which is repeated in posters all across the country, would also end up producing votes for "Mr. Wisely."

This may happen indeed. A friend of ours in Bacolod City, civic leader Nena de Leon, told us during a recent trip there that some people are saying they didn't know that Americans can run for office here. Who, they query, is this "Wisely" whom they are now being asked to vote for?

* * *

A photojournalist who showed up last Saturday at the Intercontinental coffee shop where media people and politicians regularly gather related a conversation she had with veteran Bulletin newsman, Roy Sinfuego. Roy opined that the race for the congressional seat in Makati to be vacated by Joker Arroyo has narrowed down to Erap loyalist Armida Siguion-Reyna and newcomer civic worker Melon Recto-Silverio. Roy apparently has discounted journalist and TV personality Teddy Boy Locsin, which may disconcert the latter, for as he opined in his newspaper, he is the "far-ahead candidate" and that Melon is nowhere in the surveys.

Melon, an "Assumptionista" with long involvement in grass-roots work with Makati's poor, may be a newcomer in the political scene, but she apparently has taken media by storm with her shining sincerity and genuineness, and as Teddy Benigno put it, her guts in taking on her two well-known opponents. Recto *ata si Melon—hindi umaatras sa laban*. Besides, Pinoys like underdogs.

* * *

Makati's congressional fight is interesting for another reason. Jojo Binay, who's running for his old mayoralty seat against Vice Mayor Edu Manzano, is backing Locsin, but there are barangays where Binay is reported to be backing up Siguion-Reyna, doubtless because she is Erap's anointed. In fact there's a joke going around that Binay is for Locsin in the morning and for Siguion-Reyna in the afternoon. Who's he for in the evening—Melon?

Armida is said to be spending a lot of money. Talk is that she has given P200,000 per barangay captain and doles out P5,000 to each birthday celebrant in the district, so that he could cook up a party with the money; but Armida attends it bringing her own food.

* * *

The topsy-turviness of the political scene is reflected in Antique. My friend Sally Zaldivar-Perez's last official post was Estrada's liaison in the Senate, where she was put by her longtime boss, Ed Angara. But now she's running as the official Lakas-PPC candidate for governor of Antique, versus Vice Gov. Damian Marfil, a former ally of former Assemblyman Arturo Pacificador, who's believed to be the mastermind in the murder of Edsa I hero Evelio Javier. Sally is in the same team with Evelio's brother, Exequiel, now running for his third term. I kid Sally a lot about her being a perpetual "*balimbing*," but at least, she asserts, she is "an honest *balimbing*."

Sally has lost a number of electoral fights but if the Antiqueños are really wise, they'd elect her as governor this time, for her biggest asset is her formidable political connections. Aside from her links to the Angara-Erap-Danding group, she is related by blood to Lakas stalwart Sen. Loren Legarda, and her long experience in the Senate has made her close to the senators. Sally can really move things.

* * *

Congratulations to a grand dame and pioneer entrepreneur who celebrated her 90th birthday last April 5—Francisca Garcia-Gregorio. "Nanay" as her friends call her, founded in 1938 the famous Gregg Shoes which has shod two generations of students from the '50s to the '90s. The Gregorio clan celebrated Nanay's birthday with a dinner dance at the Manila Polo Club, she being an orig of the dancing group "Smiles," which was formed 30 years ago before ballroom dancing became a fad (Nanay still does ballroom dancing, which explains her continuing good health). Ten of Nanay's friends in their 80s, together with their DIs, danced a shortened rigodon in her honor, while 22-year-old Maoi Arroyo, Joker's and Ody's eldest daughter, sang two songs for her. It was a lot of good family fun. Ody Gregorio-Arroyo, inheriting the management of Gregg Shoes from her mother, ran it as a benevolent family style shop for two generations of workers, but she looks at its closure in 1995 as a blessing in disguise.

Winning with Winnie

COMMENTARY

Belinda A. Aquino

HONOLULU—Academics, whether men or women, very seldom go into electoral politics. They'd much rather stick to the academe, which provides stability and security through tenure and promotion, than gravitate to the more uncharted or uncertain reaches of the world at large. If they have to serve the government at all occasionally, it will be as appointive consultants, advisers, or members of the Cabinet in a given presidential administration. But running for public office? That is not to be.

This is true in other countries as well. University professors, who have distinguished themselves in a particular field, are recruited to chair special commissions or to serve as advisers on, say, national security, or members of the Cabinet. Best known is Henry Kissinger of Harvard, who served as secretary of state and national security adviser in various administrations. Another talented Harvard professor in Economics, Robert Reich, was Clinton's first secretary of labor. It would never have occurred to him to run for elective office.

In this light, the candidacy of Solita "Winnie" Monsod, longtime professor of economics at UP, for the Senate, is a most significant development in Philippine politics, especially from the perspective of gender. By choice, women, even highly capable women, remain outside the establishment walls, unwilling to open the gate and join the bloody sport dominated by men. Studies on American politics reveal that more than half of all voters in the country are women. The same situation obtains in many other countries. Yet, unlike other groups, women do not use their numbers or franchise to effect social change.

Hopefully, Winnie's candidacy will bring out that potential power of women in the political arena. Of course, she is not just an academic, because she has served in various capacities outside the university, such as socio-economic planning secretary in the Aquino administration. She is also a highly visible media personality, which should help tremendously in terms of exposure to the voting public. And running in a mainstream political party should boost her chances significantly.

I must confess that I don't know Winnie on a personal level as much as I know her sister, Angie Collas Dean, who was a fellow English major and a standout in the Dramatic Club in our UP days. But over the years, I've gotten to know Winnie better mainly through her writings and paper presentations in professional conferences. She is in demand as speaker in international conferences, mainly because you get your money's worth. She has the same dramatic flair as Angie, but this time, the stage is Economics. It's quite a feat if you could make that field understandable to non-specialists, especially its more abstract dimensions. I have great respect for economists, but their use of charts and graphs and formulas is at times too complex for the ordinary brain.

The first time I went to listen to Winnie give a paper, I was warned to expect a bombastic "*walang tigil*" presentation, like attending a social science course on Diatribe 101. It was quite a commanding performance, substance-wise, body language, invective and all. I think it was something on the "human development index," and how the Philippines scored on it. She talked about the role of good governance and civil society, which animated what otherwise might have been a boring technical lecture. Except for some jargon, which we in the academic profession cannot avoid using, I was surprised how well I understood what she was saying, as though it was just another conversation. She has a forceful and dynamic style, and easy to follow. She'd be great in the Senate with all that intellectual energy, spunk and ability to stand up to anybody. She doesn't take crap from anyone.

When I went up to her to compliment her, she was a bit embarrassed and said something like, "*Ikaw naman.*" In spite of her "*matapang*" reputation (isn't she, after all, half Ilocano?), she's actually capable of humility and low-key postures. In her public pronouncements, I've never seen her put down people with unseemly or mean-spirited statements, no matter how much she disagrees with them. I don't think she'll ever say that people who criticize her are not worth it because they are a lower species, or something to that effect. Incidentally, if I'm not mistaken, she went to graduate school in Wharton, which is as good as, if not better than, Harvard or Oxford in many respects.

I think the other strong and positive aspect that Winnie brings to the political scene is vision. Politicians are not known to be great visionaries. They are identified more with pragmatic expediency in the politics of wheeling-and-dealing. A national strategy for survival, in her view, must rest on the politics of inclusion and participatory democracy with safeguards for proper accountability, which should eventually undercut corruption. She argues that there must be a strong link between growth and human development. But the latter can only occur when the structural disparities and inequalities in the Philippine social structure could be undermined. The country's institutions need drastic overhauling, and experienced and committed leaders can start the process.

Some of the current Senate's female members (as well as many of the men, of course) behaved atrociously in the last political upheaval involving the now deposed President Estrada. It was a great national shame. I hope this doesn't ruin or diminish the chances of other women seeking public office. I hope, too, that the likes of these women "leaders" will be summarily rejected by the electorate should they run again.

Winnie Monsod with her tried and tested experience and expertise on the national and international issues, coupled with her basic integrity, presents a much-needed alternative. While I stress the need for women's groups to rally strongly for Winnie's first bid for elective office, this appeal is not limited only to them. This is a rare opportunity, believe me, for every qualified voter of whatever gender, class and political persuasion to vote in a winner in all senses of the term.

Belinda A. Aquino is professor of Political Science and Asian Studies at the University of Hawaii at Manoa where she is also director of the Center for Philippine Studies

Things we still don't know about rice

LOOKING BACK

Ambeth R. Ocampo

IN RECENT years, after the publication of Doreen Fernandez's paper "Historias, Cronicas, Vocabularios: Spanish Sources for Research in Philippine Food (1987)," two 17th-century Tagalog-Spanish dictionaries have been reprinted in recent years. Compiled by the Franciscan missionaries Pedro de San Buena Ventura (originally published in Pila, Laguna in 1613) and Francisco de San Antonio (circa 1624, surviving in two separate manuscript copies, one in the University of Santo Tomas, Manila and the other in the Bibliotheque Nationale in Paris, France) these *vocabularios* do much more than expand our vocabulary, they further our limited knowledge of the pre-colonial Philippines as well.

From the *vocabulario* of the Augustinians' "Noceda y San Lucar," first published in 1754, Doreen unearthed 713 food-related words of which 160 entries, the highest number, pertained to rice. This is followed by 144 entries on fish that led her to conclude that the fish-rice diet prevalent in rural areas today is a trace of our pre-colonial food culture. When I was first invited to a round-table discussion on rice in Southeast Asia, I backed out. To make me agree a topic was supplied, why not discuss rice-based *kakanin* like *suman, puto, bibingka* etc.? My first step was to first look up the *kakanin* words in Noceda and San Lucar which I had on my reference shelf. I also checked all the terms in the earlier dictionaries. In the process I found more words than I bargained, for all of these opened a whole new rice world I did not know existed.

The most amazing discovery for me was that the friars listed a galaxy of rice types I have never heard of in my life: *quinayabong-bong, quimamalig, bonong bagyo, nagpunit, dinulong, dinamiana, tangi, quinugon, pinorac, dit-an, inalangilan, mita, pinagocpoc, quinanda, bolohan, calibo, casobong, macan, macapilay, sinangqui, sinumbilang, quinolantro, binuglasac, inabaca, mondie, nagtunco, tinuma, quiriquiri, binatad, inaggel, nagcaya, taguisa, talindiquin,* and *binambang*. These are in a Tagalog-Spanish dictionary, I'm a Tagalog-speaker, yet I could only make sense of the following:

Pirorotong, of course, is the violet type used in *puto-bungbong*. *Malagquit* is the sticky type used for *suman* and other rice cakes. I presume *lagpac* is a type that falls; *compol* is a type that you can bunch together; *Sinampaybacod*, a type you dry on a wall; *tinalahib* either grows with *talahib* or has stalks that resemble *talahib*; *tinumbaga* could mean a mixed breed or has something to do with color because *tumbaga* is a metal used in casting bells or an alloy valued a bit more than copper; San Pablo, *sinampablo* and San Pedro are undoubtedly imported Spanish varieties like *quinastila*; *bontot cabayo* (horse tail) probably describes a peculiarity of its stalk like the needle-thin *quinarayom*; *sinampaga* must be a fragrant rice; and *sinaguing* must have been a type of rice that resembled a banana. Most of the above are wild guesses based on recognizable root words, but isn't it frustrating that the rice types in the preceding paragraph are totally unknown to me? Could they be rare or extinct varieties that require research at the International Rice Research Institute? What if I consulted commercial rice dealers? Would market vendors recognize these ancient rice varieties and save me a trip to the Philippine National Herbarium that reportedly preserves about 132 materials for the species *Oryza sativa* or Asian rice?

Born and raised in Manila, my only connection with rice was when I waded in the rice paddies behind my grandfather's house in San Fernando, Pampanga. We would trespass on the neighbor's land, slide down haystacks made from discarded rice stalks, and be chased away by a dog and a cursing *katiwala*. Summers in Pampanga at least taught me the difference between *palay* (unhusked rice), *bigas* (rice that has been husked, milled and cleaned), and finally *canin* or *sinaing* (cooked rice that the Spaniards called *morisqueta* or "food of the Moors").

In between these terms are related words like *magpalay* (to sell rice or to pay for something with rice). Then as now, rice was a medium of economic exchange, at times better than cash in a barter economy. *Magpapalay* (to pay tribute in rice) was a term that reflected the colonial yoke; *magcapalay* (to have much rice); *mapalay* (one who had much rice); *nagbibigas* or *magbigas* (to clean, that is, to husk and mill rice); *bigasin* (rice); *bigasan* (a place where rice is cleaned and kept); and *cabigasan* (one grain of rice). Most important was the similarity between *canin* (cooked rice) and *cain* (to eat); *magcanin* (to have rice); *maquicanin* (to ask for rice). Finally, *cacanin* referred to the various types of rice products we will tackle later.

After collecting all the rice-related words, the next step was to arrange these to understand the various stages in processing rice from the time it is sown in the field to the time it reaches the dining table. Seeds were first soaked in a *baluyut* or *baloyot* (a small rice basket) to germinate (*nagbabatad*), then when roots appear (*naguugat*) the seedlings are transplanted (*dapog*) and matted together till they grow into a next stage and are transplanted yet again by little handfuls (*punla/salip*) into wet, prepared fields.

(More on Friday)

* * *

Comments are welcome at ambeth@admu.edu.ph

Goodbye, and a final theorizing

OUTLOOK

Rigoberto Tiglao

THIS is my last INQUIRER column. I've started Monday my new job as spokesperson for President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo. And it is this paper's policy to disallow any of its opinion columnists to have obvious biases, which I would obviously have as presidential spokesperson.

"To serve the people," I've answered friends incredulously asking why I'm joining the government. And then we all break out in a guffaw. "Okay, Bobi, now the truth," my friends Malou Mangahas and Sheila Coronel over lunch say in a chorus, with dead-pan faces.

But it is the truth, at least in part. Just needs some explaining, for the my ultracerebral friends Malou and Sheila, a lot of theory.

Of course, it's part ego-trip: it's an honor and a prestige to be the presidential spokesperson, and a Cabinet member. It's certainly ego-boosting for the President to put her trust in me.

But there's the voice in my head which reduces that attraction. It says it might not be really worth the ego-boost: waking up from now on at 5 a.m. to answer early morning radio journalists' questions and make the President's daily 8 a.m. staff meeting; facing the press every afternoon to brief them; answering reporters'—especially broadcast journalists'—phone interviews at ungodly hours of the day; basically being 24/7 on-call for any matter the President requires.

It may also require a rewiring of this journalists' brain, which in the past 20 years has been configured not only to be cynical, to look at everything's dark side—and rush to tell the world about it.

But I've tired of that after two decades, and it's time to cross the line.

For starters, I had started to feel uncomfortable at our annual editorial meetings at the Far Eastern Economic Review the past few years. Whenever the Philippines would come up as the topic in our regional assessment, either there would be bored yawning: "Why doesn't that country get to be really economically exciting?" Or head-nodding—"What's the problem there this time, can't that country ever get its act together?"

It got worse of course with Estrada, and I was close to yelling to my colleagues: "Look man, I'm just the correspondent there; I can't explain why Filipinos aren't going anywhere."

It would have been easier if I still had the world-view of 30 years ago, during my radical activist days. I would just have said: "Of course that's the situation, as the country won't be going anywhere until an armed revolution overthrows a state controlled by the ruling elite."

Things though don't appear now to be as simple as that. Yes, the state originated as a ruling class construct. Even as late as the last century, most of the states of developing countries have been outrightly controlled by the elite, most often, as in our case up to the 1960s, by landlord classes and raw material export blocs.

Even the state's modern, purportedly democratic forms are susceptible to capture by the elite—through such mechanisms for instance as the elite's near monopoly access to higher education, which is basically technology. Many theorists argue that even democratic elections are simply a mechanism for choosing which faction of the elite rules. After all, as we are seeing it now, you need hundreds of millions of pesos to win a national post.

Despite these considerations though, there is one particular dynamic created by the modern construction of the state.

Okay, the state can be captured by the elite. It's continued existence though depends on its being able to serve the needs of the majority. And in our day and age, and under capitalism, that requires both economic growth and, not necessarily an egalitarian distribution of that growth, but at least for the wealth generated to lift up the majority's well-being.

Which means, for all the factors making it vulnerable to capture by the elite, the modern state is mainly driven by the need to legitimize, to justify itself, which can be undertaken only by making it serve the majority. And the majority, by definition isn't the elite.

That dynamic has been given impetus by mankind's cultural evolution. Which means that the more civilization has progressed, the universally accepted value is not elite rights, but *individual* rights. No one can now argue, as a few still did even in the first half of the last century, (remember Hitler) that the state exists only for a particular segment of the country. It's an unintended by-product of capitalism: after all, it is the individual consumer which is the basic unit of consumption under this once exploitative system.

But what has happened to the Philippine state? It has failed in two major episodes to legitimize itself, which explains People Power I and II. The Marcos state was in its early days an instrument of a rising industrial elite, but later totally captured by a small faction of the elite we had called cronies. The Estrada state, by an underworld elite of corrupt officials, smugglers, extortionists and stock market manipulators.

What can we do if one realizes this as the reality of this society?

One: Be a critic and point out how the state is being captured for the nth time by the elite, or by a faction of it. Been there, done that, as a journalist for 20 years. That's Sheila and the Philippine Center for Investigative Journalism's trip now. Two: To hell with all these concerns, and follow Deng: Be glorious and rich. Too late in this life's game. And not my cup of tea really.

A third alternative: Work inside the state to find out why it's vulnerable to capture by the elite, and try to prevent that in your small way. I still don't know how to go about it, but in my new job at least I'm already *in* the state. I'm grateful to President Macapagal for giving me a third alternative.

Neat theory, huh? Not mine—check out the bringing-back-the-state-in social theorists. At any rate, just so you don't laugh when I give you the serve-the-people spiel.

* * *

Thanks again to editor in chief Letty Magsanoc and Opinion editor Jorge Aruta for giving me this space, this opportunity for fun these past seven months.

* * *

I'll be terminating soon my rtiglao@inq7.net address. If you want to communicate with me, my e-mail address is tiglao@pacific.net.ph.

THEY SAID

Cold numbers

"It is no consolation to me as a parent that statistics do not increase or they decrease if it is your son who has been kidnapped, if it is your daughter who has been kidnapped."

—Charles Leung, father of kidnap-slay victim Giancarlo

Vilest treachery

"To deprive the citizenry of the right to suffrage is the highest form of betrayal of democracy."

—People Power Coalition senatorial candidate Ernesto Herrera

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Unwilling to practice what they pray

I AM not a member of the Couples for Christ but I am very impressed by the 13-0 advocacy of Tony Meloto and the CFC Council of Elders. Here indeed is a genuine Christian community aware of Gospel values and willing to practice these values. Here is a community that has read the signs of the times and has sounded the alarm that the May election is a continuation of People Power II. The 13-0 Movement, to me, is a symbolic stand for goodness against manifest evil. 13-0, to me, can even mean the inclusion of decent candidates like Perfecto Yasay and Camilo Sabio.

It is not a question of politicking. It is a matter of right and wrong, truth and deception, light and darkness. I realized after reading the letter that it is Catholics like us who make Christianity in the Philippines a parody. We are Asia's leading Christian nation and yet survey after survey have pointed out that we have one of the most corrupt governments in the world. In Asia, only Indonesia is more corrupt.

We worship. We pray. We attend Bible meetings. We are animated by the LSS. But we remain unable and unwilling to practice what we pray and what we learn from the Scriptures. Something is terribly wrong. Our selective application of Gospel values into actual living is very disturbing. I will find it very discomforting if, while trying hard to follow Jesus as my model for life, I will then go to the polls on May 14 to vote for the likes of Juan Ponce Enrile, Panfilo Lacson, Gregorio Honasan, Miriam Defensor-Santiago, Edgardo Angara, Loi Estrada and the rest of the Erap cabal.

It will help very much if we Catholics will take a second look at the documents of the Vatican II and read the Gospels more carefully. Maybe we will see that Meloto and the CFC elders are doing the right thing on the basis of the Scriptures and Church teachings. The CFC 13-0 Movement is a leaven. It is the same leaven that so moved Speaker Manny Villar to make that decent move that made the impeachment hearing possible. This will be the same leaven that will galvanize many of us to vote for the truth.

I support the CFC for taking the plunge into making a courageous stand against lies, deceptions and abuses by powerful politicians. I hope that other renewed, covenanted Catholic communities like the BLD and the Charismatics would also read the signs of the times and actualize Gospel values in order to exorcise some of the evils from politics and government. This is a way of helping build God's Kingdom here on earth.—**EMIR R. ESPAÑO, Governor Ramos Avenue, Sta. Maria, Zamboanga City**

Foiling the 'lansadera'

THIS is regarding Rigoberto Tiglao's column titled, "May 14: Brace for the worst." He mentioned a technique of cheating in an election known as *lansadera* and described how its procedure works.

Some other details, like who is the key character, as well as how to avoid or frustrate the *lansadera* are worth mentioning.

The main man in the *lansadera* is the chair of the Board of Election Inspectors (BEI). This is because no person other than the BEI chair will deliver the official ballots. The BEI chair, after first entering the number of the ballot in the corresponding space of the voting record, delivers to the voter one ballot correctly folded. After the voter fills out his ballot, he folds it in the same manner and returns it to the BEI chair. The chair, in the presence and view of the voter and all the members of the BEI, without unfolding the ballot or seeing its contents, can verify its number from the voting record where it was previously entered. Any ballot returned to the BEI chair whose detachable coupon has been removed not in the presence of the BEI and of the voter, or any ballot whose number does not coincide with the number of the ballot delivered to the voter, as entered in the voting record, will be considered spoiled and shall be so marked and signed by the members of the BEI.

Therefore, in order to avoid or frustrate the *lansadera*, the watchers should at all times keep a close watch on the BEI chair. The watchers have the right to stay in the space reserved for them inside the polling place. They have the right to witness or inform themselves of the proceedings of the BEI, to take note of what they may see or hear, to file a protest against any irregularity or violation of law which they believe may have been committed by the BEI or by any of its members or by any persons.

If the *lansadera* is exposed, the perpetrators would be discouraged from continuing with such illegal act.—**EMMANUEL MAPILI, House of Representatives Electoral Tribunal, Commonwealth Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City**

Help veteran's surviving spouse

I AM writing you this letter on behalf of my mother, Generosa G. Cecilio. She is almost 88 years old and has been a widow since 1970. My father was the late Eduardo Fortich Cecilio, who was a guerrilla in World War II. Not knowing her benefits as a widow, she was not able to apply for the same until February 2000 at the Philippine Veterans Affairs Office in Cagayan de Oro.

By April of 2000, I went to Manila in order to follow up my father's papers. I was told to go to the Provost Marshal's office to get the guerrilla records of my father and submit it to the PVAO at the Crame Compound.

Upon completion, I was informed by the PVAO that my mother would be receiving her lump-sum and monthly benefits starting May 2000. After this, they wrote us again to submit a few more papers through the PVAO Cagayan de Oro.

In desperation, I asked for Senate President Aquilino Pimentel Jr.'s help. Precy Sanches, the senator's secretary, has been very helpful on the matter. She was informed that all my mother had to do was open a savings account with the Land Bank of the Philippines and they would send the remittances to the said account. This was February of 2001 and still no money.

Is it because the Veteran's Administration has no money for these benefits? I call on President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo to help our veterans and their widows. After all, they are the ones who risked their lives for our country.—**RAFAEL G. CECILIO, 16 Mt. Lanumbaan St., Capistrano Complex, Gusa, Cagayan de Oro City**

LETTERS

A well-respected man

RESPECTED by all who knew him, I have always valued my friendly association with Tito Bubby Dacer at the Manila Hotel where I used to be one of the PR officers. Since he held office there as well, oftentimes I would bump into him at the lobby on ordinary days, special occasions and when various events were staged. He would call me "the prettiest girl in Manila Hotel"!

Since I was very young and new in the PR industry, he always made it a point to give me and the other PR staff bits and pieces of his "unsolicited" advice. Dacer was a person who inspired and showed compassion. He was intense, but caring.

I am deeply saddened by the loss of a friend and a gentleman who had a very jovial nature and kind heart. He had a fine reputation that contributed greatly to journalism and the public relations industry.

To the family of the late Bubby Dacer, my sincerest sympathies at this time of grief. We will definitely miss a person who had the respect and admiration of all who knew him.—**GWEN JACINTO-CARIÑO, public relations and special events executive, The Star Group Ltd.**

Unfair to Cabinet appointees

THE WARNING of Senate President Aquilino Pimentel Jr. that Cabinet members with cases before the Office of the Ombudsman will not get the approval of the Commission on Appointments is not only unfair to the appointees but to the appointing power as well.

Most of the recently appointed Cabinet secretaries were selected after careful and rigorous vetting by a selection committee based on their expertise and qualifications. Pimentel seeks to negate the committee's efforts by objecting to the confirmation of their appointment simply because some have pending cases before the courts or the Office of the Ombudsman.

It is common knowledge that many people file cases against government officials out of vindictiveness and mostly for political reasons. Some cases are filed immediately after an official is appointed to an important post in government at the instigation of another official who is interested in the same position. I have learned that Tourism Secretary Richard Gordon for one is a victim of this unsavory practice.

As a Filipino expatriate who has worked and lived in Europe and Singapore for eight years, I have followed closely the career of Gordon, from his successful stint as mayor of Olongapo City to his internationally recognized good management of the Subic Bay Metropolitan Administration. His aggressive and hands-on management style in the Department of Tourism has drawn praise from the public, particularly his all-out campaign to clean the international airport and areas along Roxas Boulevard and Intramuros. His brand of leadership is what our tourism industry and our country need in order to compete with other countries in attracting big business investors and tourists alike.

Unfortunately, some pampered and complacent employees of the DOT do not support him simply because he ordered them to clean the department's premises. If the offices of the DOT are not clean, then how can we expect tourists to visit our country? In fact, we should not even invite them. Singapore became one of the top tourist destinations because tourists feel safe and the city is clean.

Our senators, especially Pimentel, should concentrate on serious issues affecting our country such as the economic, energy and garbage crises. They should not use the Commission on Appointments to harass and intimidate appointees of the President for their own personal reasons.

Let the President and her Cabinet secretaries do their job with less interference.—**RUBEN C. TOBIAS, 42 Pearl St., Fairview, Quezon City**

Spare workers from higher SSS deductions

HOW cruel it would be for Social Security Service chair Vitaliano Nañagas II to penalize all SSS members by requiring them to pay increased monthly dues mainly because of "investment losses" incurred during the Estrada administration. Nañagas must understand that workers have long been burdened by the forcible Pag-Ibig deduction and regressive taxation that have reduced their existence to a matter of survival. It's not just. It is inhuman to say the least.

Please spare Filipino workers from further exploitation, abuse, misery and neglect.

Why does he not help recover the ill-gotten wealth accumulated by ousted President Estrada and his cronies instead? Why not confiscate Estrada's mansions? These pieces of property can be sold and the proceeds turned over to the government.—**WENCY DIMO-OS, Panay Labor Alliance c/o Allied Bank, Aldeguer Street, Iloilo City**

Where are benefits due a veteran' s spouse?

I AM Juliana B. Chiu, the wife of a veteran, Pedro R. Chiu of Maribojoc, Bohol. My husband died on July 7, 1999. After his death, I complied with all the requirements so that I could avail myself of the benefits as the surviving spouse.

However, until now there has been no positive response from the appropriate government agency. It has been almost two years now since he died and I believe that I have been patient enough.

I do not have many more years to count but I want to believe that this administration knows how to really take good care of surviving spouses of veterans, who are now old. Kindly let me enjoy what is lawfully mine!—**JULIANA B. CHIU, Maribojoc, Bohol 6336**

Changing the Filipino's driving attitude

I HAVE just read the commentary of Leandro V. Colonel. (PDI, 4/9/01) It really hit the mark as to what a Filipino truly is. I believe we should start with the basics in reforming the Filipino character and one area involves our driving attitude. We must develop our driving discipline plus a respect and proper understanding of traffic rules and regulations before we can even attract foreign investors and tourists to visit our country. How would a foreigner trust us as a people if the basic laws of the land such as driving are not followed and obeyed?

If all Filipino drivers would simply follow the rules, whether there are law enforcers around or not, driving would be more comfortable. Take the example of Subic, I don't know if things have deteriorated since 1998, but the last time I drove there, most of the motorists followed the right of way and speed limits even if there were only a few men manning the traffic. Those who committed an infraction knew that they would not be allowed to get out of the place unless they paid the penalty for it.

Most of the motorists in Metro Manila have never driven around in a place where driving laws are applied strictly and violators punished certainly and equally.

Just a couple of suggestions for the Land Transportation Office people responsible for issuing drivers' licenses and the main government agency registering all motor vehicles in the country:

(1) Make sure that the applicants are literate. A literate person would not easily be intimidated by any stupid law enforcer because he/she can always reason out and determine fully the details of his violation. A smart motorist can always go to the proper agency to file a complaint.

(2) Let us take out the "*kawawa naman*" mentality in our system. Just because driving a tricycle, jeep, bus or truck is their only means of livelihood does not entitle them to a license without a thorough test as required by law.

(3) All types of vehicles should be checked and issued a true certification of road worthiness and air emission by its original manufacturers/dealers/makers in order to ensure that the vehicles still complies with the engineering design for safety before issuing the registration. In this way, no manufacturer/dealer/maker would issue a certification unless they would want to ruin their reputation. This would also ensure that the vehicles get the proper maintenance at least once a year because of this requirement. This would lessen the dilapidated vehicles such as second-hand buses from Japan, unreliable reconditioned trucks and assembled jeeps without proper engineering study for safety to ply our streets again.

(4) Finally, all drivers renewing their license (once every three years) should present a certification that they at least attended one refresher course within the three years, both written and actual driving, particularly in vehicles used most of the time in any accredited LTO driving school. If we require doctors, lawyers, engineers or any professional persons to take refresher course/seminars, why not drivers?

I have not made any suggestions regarding the law enforcement side, because an informed, disciplined and knowledgeable driver would not be afraid of law enforcers whether they are good or bad. This is what had happened in Edsa II in which a big group of responsible citizens forced the highest elected official of the land to vacate his post because of corruption and incompetence.

Again, if we allow anybody to acquire a driver's license easily and motor vehicles to be registered just as easily, it would be no different than authorizing them to kill anybody using the motor vehicle as a weapon.—**JIM G. JAMIAS, Rm. 204-206 Realty & Dev't Bldg. 11th Street cor. Pacita Avenue, Pacita Complex, San Pedro, Laguna**

Where's that credit memo?

A FULL-PAGE advertisement of the Government Service Insurance System tells its millions of pensioners throughout the country not to worry about their pensions or their benefits. It says that none of us pensioners should entertain any doubts as to the capability of the GSIS to provide the much needed lifetime retirement benefits.

But, as a pensioner myself, my name was not included in the credit memo (CM) received by the Development Bank of the Philippines Daet Branch for the month of April 2001 on the very date the GSIS advertisement appeared. When I inquired, I was informed by the DBP personnel that they have yet to receive the CM from the DBP head office to which the GSIS head office submits it. While other pensioners received their pensions for the month of April 2001 through their savings account with the DBP Daet Branch, I am deprived of the only means of livelihood as a retiree.—**GODOFREDO O. PETEZA, Magallanes, Iraya Street, Daet, Camarines Norte**

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- **exhibits of different schools like UP and Letran**
- **exhibits of various organizations such as Couples for Christ, Philippine Center for Investigative Journalism (PCIJ) and many more**
- **viewing of the official entries to the 1st Student CMMA**
- **formal launching of the CMMA 2001**

SCHEDULE OF ACTIVITIES

May 3 (Thursday)
10:30 am Holy Mass
His Eminence Jaime L. Cardinal Sin, DD
11:30 Ribbon-Cutting and Blessing
1:30 D Day! (with Ms. Dina Bonnevie)
3:30 New Trends in Print Media
Ms. Shiela Coronel (PCIJ)
5:00 Film Showing
6:00 Video Presentation

May 4 (Friday)
12:00 nn Holy Mass in Veritas Radio
Rev. Fr. Anton C. Pascual
1:30pm Video Presentation on Past CMMA Winners
2:30 Video Presentation on Cinema Trends
3:00 Dialogue with The Directors
Ms. Marilou Diaz-Abaya
Ms. Laurice Guillen
Ms. Rory Quintos
6:00pm Film Showing

May 5 (Saturday)
11:00 am Short Lecture and Film Showing
Mr. Raymond Red
1:30 pm Holy Mass and Launching of CMMA 2001
Msgr. Soc Villegas
3:00 Musical Presentations - Couples for Christ
Laya

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Reformist Koizumi new Japan PM

KOIZUMI

TOKYO—Dealing a blow to Japan's political elite, maverick reformist Junichiro Koizumi defeated a former premier to win the ruling party presidency Tuesday, guaranteeing his election as the next prime minister.

The 293-155 vote by party members over former Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto capped a stunning upset by Koizumi, who was hoisted to the pinnacle of the Liberal Democratic Party by an overwhelming show of support by rank-and-file members in the primaries.

MANILA—President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo on Tuesday congratulated Junichiro Koizumi on his election as president of Japan's ruling party, and the premiership that effectively goes with it.

"We congratulate the new government and we hope that we will continue to have good relations with our neighbor in the north," Arroyo told a news conference.

"We appreciate Japan as a neighbor, an important trading partner, an important investor in the Philippines and by far the biggest source of official development assistance," she added. *AFP*

The election of Koizumi reflected growing public disgust with the political establishment and the sour economy, and the LDP's desperate attempt to revamp its stick-in-the-mud image ahead of upper house Parliamentary elections this summer.

"This election was held against an unprecedented headwind," Koizumi said in accepting the post. "I promised to change the party and to change Japan, and fortunately, many party members supported my call."

Koizumi, certain to be formally named prime minister later this week by the LDP-dominated Parliament, takes office as Japan is wallowing in a decade-long economic slowdown. Unemployment is high, a hoped-for recovery has fizzled and the financial system is riddled with bad debts.

Japan's political system is also in trouble. Koizumi will take over from Prime Minister Yoshiro Mori, whose dismal year in office has been defined by a string of scandals, political gaffes and support ratings in the single digits.

Koizumi, a former health minister known for his shaggy hairstyle and fiery rhetoric, is pushing economic and structural reforms, including the privatization of Japan's massive postal system, which offers saving accounts and even insurance policies to clients.

Koizumi has criticized the system as inefficient, but his desire to change it has little support among the party leadership, and many analysts believe he will have a hard time carrying out the promises of reform that were the focus of his campaign. *AP*

US, Peru set joint probe of shootdown

LIMA—The Peruvian Air Force and the United States will launch a joint investigation into the downing of a civilian aircraft by a Peruvian fighter jet that killed a US missionary and her baby daughter, the Air Force said in a statement.

The Peruvian Air Force also decided to "temporarily suspend interception operations (of suspect aircraft) until the conclusion of the investigation," said the statement issued late Monday.

Veronica Bowers, 36, and her seven-month-old daughter Charity were killed Friday when the Cessna plane they were traveling in from Brazil to Iquitos was mistaken for a drug trafficking flight and shot down by a Peruvian fighter jet.

Bowers' husband Jim and seven-year-old son Cory returned Sunday to their home in Raleigh, North Carolina, the missionary organization said. The plane's pilot, Kevin Donaldson, who nearly lost his foot, was recovering at a hospital in Pennsylvania after emergency surgery.

The Peruvian Air Force and the US Embassy in Lima agreed "to carry out a joint investigation by a team of specialists from both countries . . . to determine the causes that led to the incident," the Air Force statement said. *AFP*

WORLDBRIEFS

Human foot-and-mouth

LONDON—A British slaughterman was on Monday undergoing urgent medical tests amid fears that he may have contracted foot-and-mouth disease, the department of health said. Government experts insisted the virus was only a mild, flu-like illness in humans and not a threat to public health. The results of the tests are expected within 48 hours. If they prove positive, the man will become only the second person in Britain to have contracted the disease, which has ravaged livestock across the country. The first man contracted the condition during an outbreak in 1966 and suffered no long-term consequences from it. *AFP*

Milosevic assets

BERN—Assets held by former president Slobodan Milosevic in Switzerland will feature in talks this week involving Swiss President Moritz Leuenberger and his Yugoslav counterpart Vojislav Kostunica, government officials said on yesterday. Some 40 bank accounts belonging to Milosevic and members of his entourage are currently blocked in Switzerland, according to the Swiss government economic department. The department is also investigating where 300 kg of gold came from that the Milosevic regime deposited in Swiss banks. Switzerland is seeking Belgrade's legal cooperation on the two dossiers. *AFP*

Afghan crisis to worsen

UNITED NATIONS—The humanitarian crisis in Afghanistan has reached "alarming proportions" and is likely to worsen in coming months because of war and drought, UN Secretary General Kofi Annan said Monday. In a quarterly report to the Security Council, he urged member states to contribute generously to the United Nations' $250-million assistance initiative for Afghanistan, saying they were partly to blame for that country's plight. So far, the initiative has raised only $85 million to help meet Afghanistan's needs this year. "Donor fatigue may appear to be an understandable reaction after so many years of war," Annan said. Afghanistan has been wracked by civil war since Soviet forces left in February 1989 and although the Islamic Taliban guerrilla movement now controls almost all the country, fierce fighting continues in northern areas. *AFP*

India-B'desh border row

GUWAHATI—India frontier guards were on high alert yesterday, following what senior officers described as a major overnight build-up of Bangladeshi troops along the border. "There has been a massive build-up of Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) soldiers and heavy movement of regular Bangladesh Army along the borders with Assam, Tripura, and Mizoram states and they were seen patrolling at night," said Arvind Ranjan, Inspector General of the Indian Border Security Force (BSF). "The situation is tense and worrying," added Ranjan. Skirmishes along the normally-peaceful border last week claimed the lives of 19 frontier guards on both sides, including BSF personnel. *AFP*

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INDONESIA military forces in gas masks and holding gas launchers, part of 40,000 police and soldiers to be deployed next week to contain expected violence, conduct training April 24. REUTERS

Megawati party to back second censure of Wahid

JAKARTA—Indonesian Vice President Megawati Sukarnoputri has said her political party, the country's largest, would back a second censure of the embattled president next week, local media reported on yesterday.

Although a second formal rebuke of President Abdurrahman Wahid has been seen as inevitable, Megawati has said little about her party's stance on her old friend's shaky political future since his first censure by parliament over two financial scandals.

Former Justice Minister Yusril Ihza Mahendra, quoted by several leading newspapers, said Megawati had confirmed her Indonesian Democratic Party-Struggle (PDI-P) would support the second censure when parliament meets next Monday.

Mahendra heads the tiny Crescent Star Party (PBB) while Megawati's PDI-P holds a third of the seats in parliament.

"As for the PBB, we have a clear stance to go for the second censure. Then I asked her what about PDI-P, and Mega said, `Yes, (we) will be like that too,'" Mahendra said.

One senior PDI-P official, asked to comment on the reports, would only say the party looked set to back the second censure.

"The draft of our response is nearing completion and looks set for the second censure," Julius Usman, a party official and MP in charge of drafting the response, told Reuters.

"Mega has never interfered in the drafting of the response, and only said we need to back it up with strong arguments."

Issuance of the second censure would open the way for impeachment hearings against Wahid in the top legislature, ratcheting up Indonesia's already heated political climate and raising the prospect of violence from fanatical Wahid supporters.

Mahendra, sacked by Wahid earlier this year for backing calls for the president to step down, said Megawati made the comments when he met her on Monday.

During the Monday session, parliament will debate its response to Wahid's rejection of the first censure, issued in February. There is little support for Wahid in parliament apart from his own party, which has around 10 percent of the seats.

Indonesian police have said 40,000 police and soldiers would be deployed to guard the capital when parliament meets on Monday.

Officials fear thousands of pro-Wahid supporters, including members of suicide squads, will hit the streets.

The censure process is the most serious threat to the erratic Muslim cleric's 18 months of chaotic leadership, which has failed to drag the country away from bloodletting and economic misery.

But some analysts say the fear of the violence Wahid's downfall could ignite is likely to force the two largest parties, PDI-P and the former ruling Golkar party, to shy away from actually forcing an impeachment hearing. *Reuters*

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Israelis, Palestinians agree to reduce violence

JERUSALEM—Israeli and Palestinian security officials have agreed to reduce violence and improve cooperation, according to a military source, but the message appeared to go unheeded amid a rash of bomb attacks.

During a three-hour US-sponsored meeting Monday, the two sides agreed to reduce violence and improve cooperation, the source said.

"The meeting was serious and will be followed by another between top officers from both sides in the field Friday," he added.

The same source said he hoped "Israel could decide measures to ease (the blockade) and facilitate the living conditions of the Palestinians if the security situation allows it."

However any meeting of minds in the security meeting at the home of US Ambassador in Tel Aviv Martin Indyk was not reflected on the streets.

At least four people were slightly injured when a bomb exploded in the town of Or Yehuda, southeast of Tel Aviv, Israeli Army radio said, just a day after a suicide bombing in the town of Kfar Saba north of Tel Aviv that killed an Israeli civilian and the bomber.

Earlier Monday a bomb exploded in front of a bus carrying Israeli soldiers in the West Bank early Monday, without causing any damage or injuries.

Separately, an 11-year-old Palestinian boy, Mohannad Muharib, was shot dead, becoming the 400th Palestinian to die as a direct result of the intifada, while at least 12 other people were wounded during clashes with Israeli soldiers in the Khan Yunis refugee camp in the southern Gaza Strip, medical sources and witnesses said.

The boy's death during the funeral for a Palestinian policemen who died from wounds suffered during an Israeli bombardment of the Gaza Strip last week, brought the overall toll for the intifada which began in late September to 487. *AFP*

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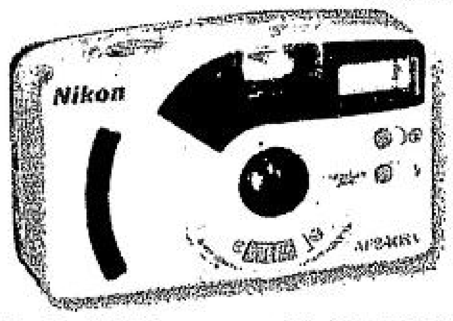

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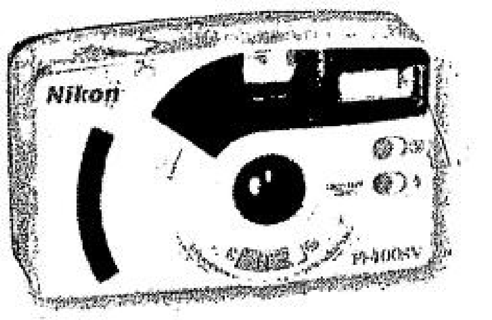

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Bush defers Taiwan's request for Aegis radar

WASHINGTON—President George W. Bush deferred Taipei's request for the state-of-the-art Aegis radar system but left open the option of providing it to counter future military threats from Beijing, a White House official said Monday.

Bush decided to "keep open the possibility of providing Aegis in the future in light of the evolving security situation and the PRC (People's Republic of China) air threat to Taiwan," said the official, who declined to be named.

Instead, Taiwan can acquire four Kidd-class destroyers—no longer used by the US Navy but "a significant upgrade" over Taiwan's current defenses—which will be available by 2003 compared to 2010 at the earliest for Aegis.

Washington also agreed to provide Taipei up to eight diesel submarines, 12 P-3C "sub-hunting" patrol aircraft, self-propelled artillery, and a technical briefing on PAC-3 missiles that Taiwan may request in the future, said the official.

Taiwan will be notified of the decision on Tuesday, when a team of senior military officers from Taipei is due to attend a meeting at the Pentagon. *AFP*

Skipper of US sub draws a reprimand

PEARL HARBOR—USS Greeneville Cmdr. Scott Waddle was found guilty of two violations of military law and punished with a letter of reprimand for the submarine collision that killed nine men and boys aboard a Japanese fishing vessel.

Waddle also received a two-month cut to half salary, but that punishment was suspended—meaning Waddle will receive full pay until he retires by Oct. 1.

"While I regret that my Navy career has ended in this way, I know that I am one of the lucky ones because I survived the accident," Waddle said in a statement released by his civilian attorney, Charles Gittins.

The punishment was imposed by Adm. Thomas Fargo, who said Waddle created "an artificial sense of urgency" when he rapidly surfaced the Greeneville on Feb. 9 into the Ehime Maru, a commercial boat and training vessel for high school students.

Fargo imposed the punishment at an "admiral's mast" attended by Waddle, a military attorney and several officers at Pearl Harbor Navy Base.

"I understand and accept the punishment that Admiral Fargo imposed. He treated me fairly and with dignity and respect and I thank him for that," Waddle, 41, said in the statement.

All other officers of the Greeneville also escaped courts-martial. Those included the officer of the deck, Lt. j.g. Michael Coen, and the executive officer, Lt. Cmdr. Gerald Pfeifer. *AP*

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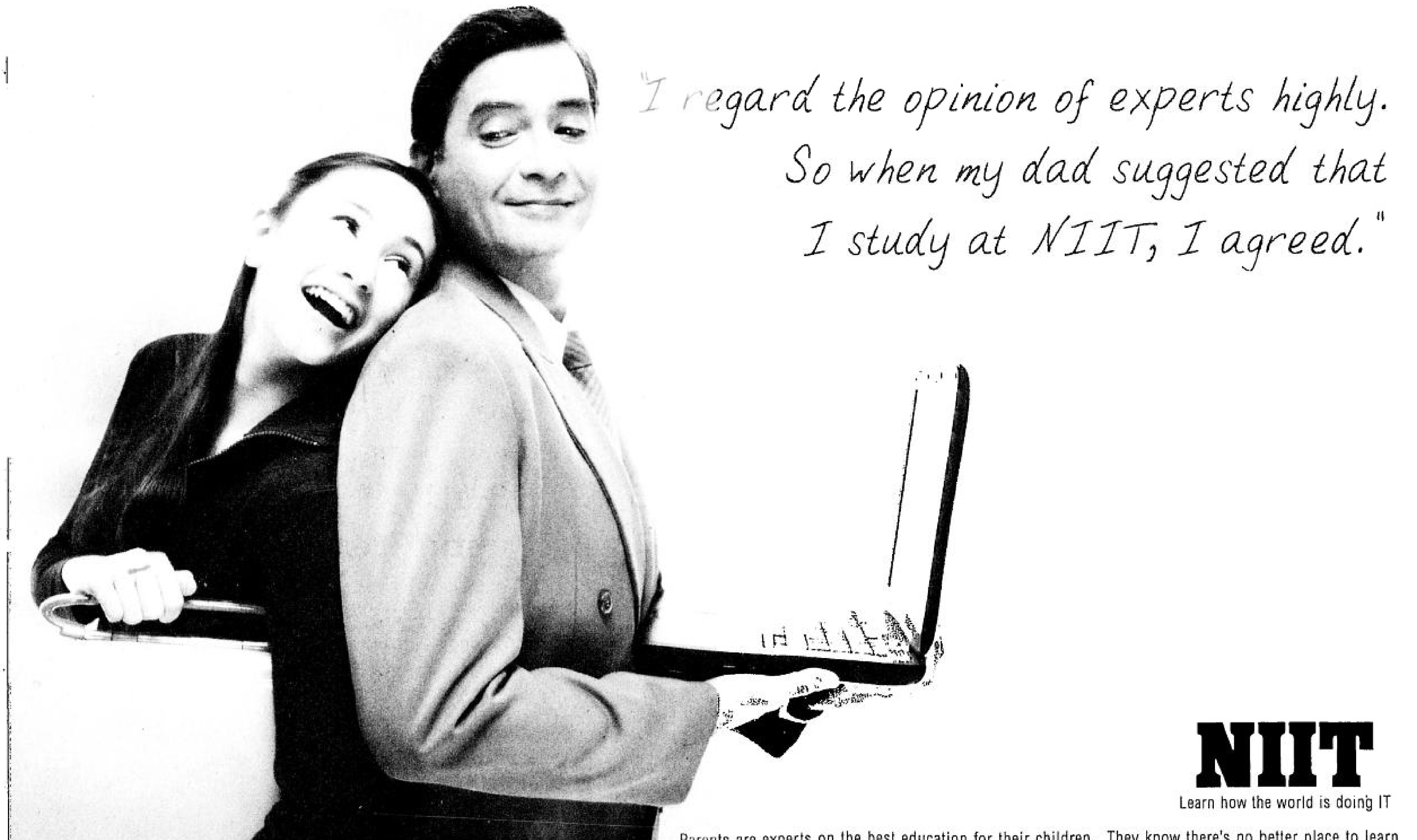
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TONY BERGONIA, Assistant Editor

'BALIKATAN-01'

1,700 US troops joining war games

CLARK SPECIAL ECONOMIC ZONE—At least 1,700 American soldiers are expected to spend more than P53.5 million on hotel accommodation, food and recreation during the 14-day Balikatan-01 war exercises in Luzon.

Balikatan-01 is this year's first largest joint military exercises in Luzon held under the Visiting Forces Agreement between the Philippines and the United States.

Officials of the Presidential Commission on the VFA (VFACOM) said Balikatan-01, which starts on Friday and ends on May 10, would bring economic benefits to Clark, in nearby Angeles City, Nueva Ecija, Tarlac and Cavite where the exercises would be staged.

Each US soldier is provided with a daily allowance of $45 for personal expenditures, Elmer Cato, VFACOM spokesperson, said.

Hotel expenses alone would run to P11 million, he said.

The economic gains from the war games are expected to go beyond P54 million as 370 American troops have arrived in the country since Tuesday, he said.

Cato said "quite a number of officers" have been buying locally made furniture and tax-free goods from duty-free stores here and have been sending these abroad in C-130 planes.

The most significant benefit, according to Cato, is the "greater sense of security (from the military exercises) which is ideal for business."

This was so because the US was the Philippine government's "principal defense ally," he added.

At least 2,600 Filipino troops are participating in Balikatan-01, the third of 18 war games slated this year under the VFA, which allowed the resumption of bilateral military activities after almost more than a decade.

Maj. Paciano Monilla, representative of the Armed Forces of the Philippines in the VFACom, said the Philippine government would not be receiving military goods from the US after Balikatan-01.

But the AFP, according to Monilla, would learn "modern techniques and tactics" in military and civic-related operations from the US.

Cato, who earlier acknowledged the validity of VFA-related social and safety concerns in communities hosting the war games, said the US troops were restricting their off-duty activities in Clark.

The National Democratic Front, currently engaged in peace talks with the Macapagal administration, has demanded the abrogation of the VFA.

Cato quoted Col. Kirk Miyake, US co-director of the VFA, as saying "my forces are not here to go on an R & R (rest and recreation)."

A flea market for Filipino products will be put up inside the former Clark Air Base.

Four villages in Tarlac and Angeles City also stand to benefit from a number of classrooms and roads that US troops will be constructing there.

The exercises include search and rescue operations in disaster situations, one that will benefit Central Luzon, which is prone to serious flooding and lahar flows. *Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: The Southern and Eastern Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao will experience cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thundertorms becoming widespread rains over Eastern Luzon. The rest of Luzon will be partly cloudy to cloudy with isolated rainshowers or thundertorms.

SOURCE: PAGASA

Metro Manila HI 32° Lo 25°	**Baguio** HI 25° Lo 17°	**Tuguegarao** HI 32° Lo 22°	**Laoag** HI 34° Lo 24°
Clark Zone HI 32° Lo 24°	**Tagaytay** HI 30° Lo 22°	**Legazpi** HI 32° Lo 25°	**Calapan** HI 32° Lo 24°
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Compiled by: Ray Leyesa, PDI Research

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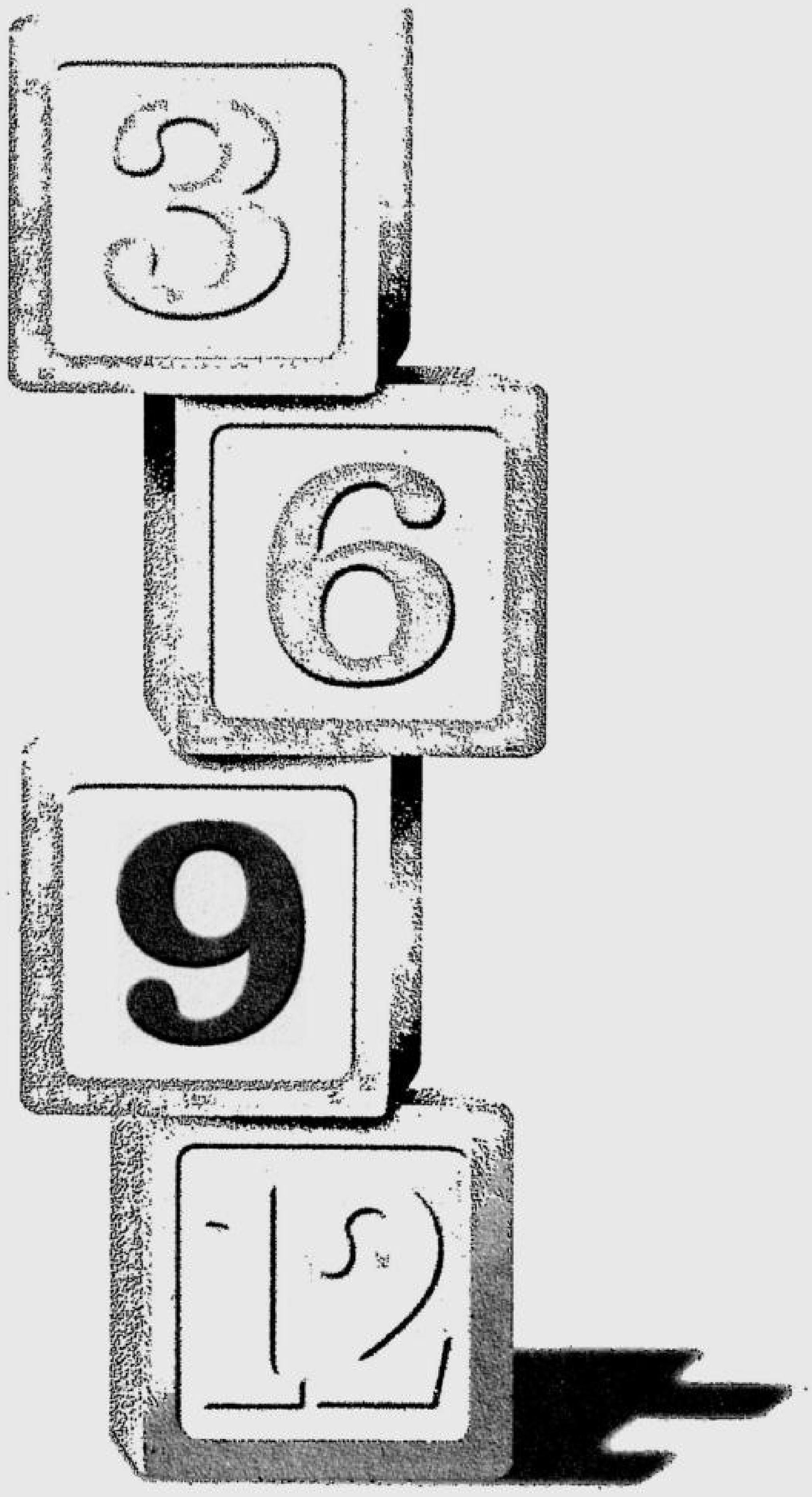

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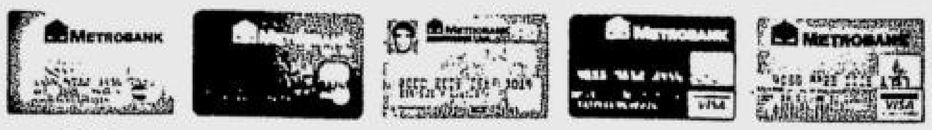

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Bayan Muna declares support for local bets

By Nestor Burgos Jr.
PDI Visayas Bureau

ILOILO CITY—The already tight electoral race got a surprise from the party-list group Bayan Muna when it endorsed candidates for the May 14 elections.

Bayan Muna president Satur Ocampo declared his group's support to 22 candidates running for seats in the city, province and seven towns during a ceremony attended by about 1,000 members and allies on Sunday.

The group was also in Roxas City in Capiz on Sunday to endorse the candidacies of reelectionist Gov. Vicente Bermejo, Dr. Antonio Arciga for mayor of Ivisan town, and five others running a seat in the provincial board.

Heading the list of Bayan Muna candidates in Iloilo were Vice Gov. Demy Sonza, who is running for governor; lawyer Jerry Treñas, for mayor of Iloilo City; and Councilor Victor Facultad, for vice mayor.

Sonza and Treñas belong to the Lakas-NUCD. Vice Mayor Guillermo de la Llana, Treñas' opponent, and his running mate, Facultad, belong to the Laban ng Demokratikong Pilipino of Sen. Franklin Drilon, an Ilonggo.

Siegfred Deduro, Bayan Muna vice president for the Visayas, said his group had yet to decide whom to support for vice governor. Among those running for the position are Adolfo Jaen, Roberto Armada and Pablito Araneta.

The endorsement of local candidates followed Bayan Muna's declaration of support for the People Power Coalition senatorial candidates, except Drilon and Bohol Rep. Ernesto Herrera.

Instead, the group chose former Securities and Exchange Commission chair Perfecto Yasay (Independent), an Ilonggo.

Treñas welcomed the endorsement. "Bayan and Bayan Muna are significant forces in the city as shown by its anti-Estrada campaign," he said.

Roland Magahin, De la Llana's spokesperson, said the endorsement was a negative one because it would raise reservations from the "rightists and anti-communists."

Ocampo said the endorsement reflected his group's high credibility. "We have overcome the stigma attached to political parties identified with the Left, like a kiss of death," he said.

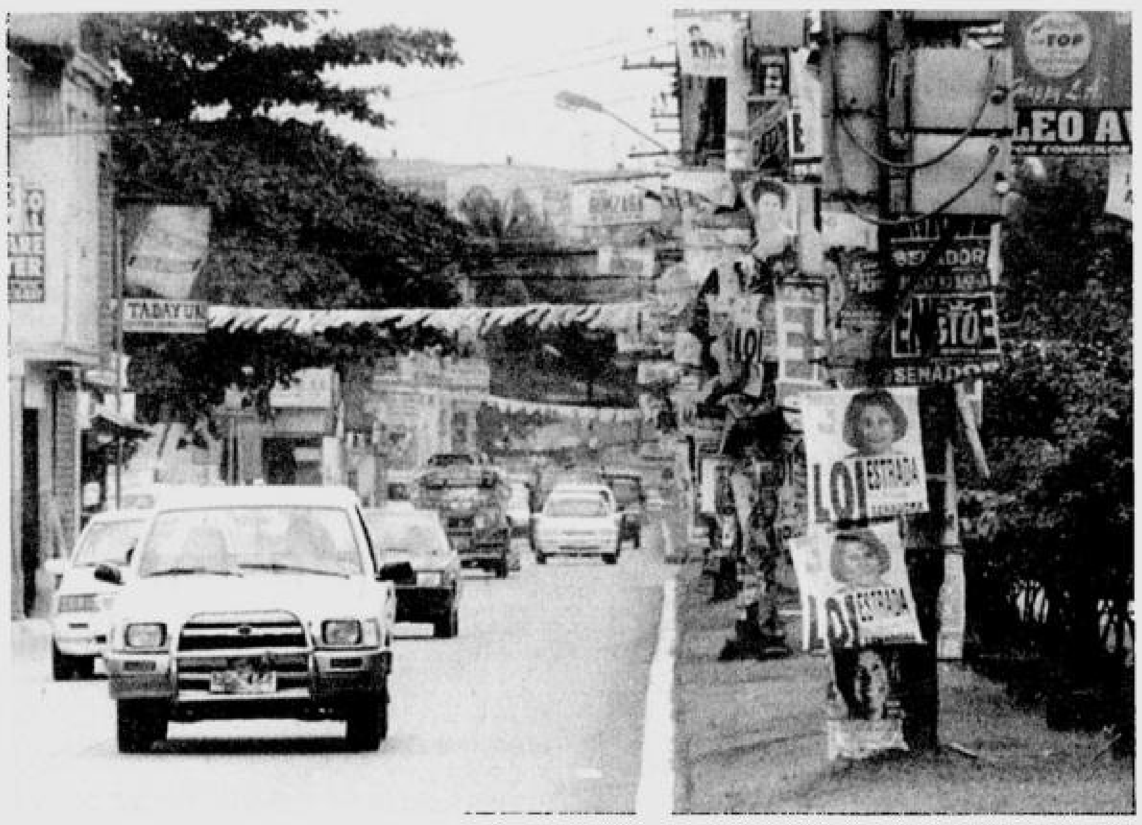
While the Bayan Muna machinery was not well-financed, he said, candidates were attracted to the party-list group's committed corps of activists and volunteers.

"Our experience in the anti-Estrada struggle showed that we have the capacity to deliver and influence votes," said Ocampo, a journalist and former spokesperson of the communist-led National Democratic Front.

He said the candidates were chosen based on their common unity to "continue and advance the gains of People Power II and the prosecution of Estrada."

Candidates who took a progressive stand on issues and were willing to support the party-list group were also selected.

Ocampo dismissed criticisms that they had sold out. "We tell the endorsees our relationship is not forever. We will hold them accountable for their commitments," he said.



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EYESORES
Davao City's cleanliness program takes a back seat as campaign posters of various sizes hang from electric poles along Quirino Avenue in Davao City.

Church condemns killing of Ilocos mayor, 3 cops

STA. LUCIA, Ilocos Sur—Archbishop Edmundo Abaya and members of the Nueva Segovia clergy in the province condemned the murder of Mayor Teodoro Hernaez and his three police escorts here last week.

Fr. Loreto Viloria, Sta. Lucia parish priest, relayed this message from the province's Catholic Church officials amid the tension that engulfed the town following the murders.

"We are appealing for calm, sobriety and charity to all concerned," Viloria said.

He appealed to residents and officials in the town not to give "innuendoes and premature, unfounded statements" on the slaying to avoid intrigues that could trigger other similar incidents.

Hernaez, 72, who was seeking his third term under the Bileg-Lakas-NUCD, was delivering a speech during the barangay fiesta in Namatican here on April 18 when he was shot at close range.

Also killed were his escorts, PO3 William Agpalo and PO2 Robert Naungayan, both of the local police force, and Rodolfo Hernaez, a retired policeman and cousin of the mayor.

Viloria said residents of Namatican were "silent" about the incident.

"There is a conspiracy of silence as nobody dares to talk," he said.

He said the murder of Hernaez and his three escorts had precedents in the town. He cited the murder of a policeman three years ago and two other killings on April 8.

He said there was a similar pattern in these killings with that of Hernaez's murder.

Police said the suspects in previous slayings in the town were members of the communist New People's Army operating in the province.

In a press statement, the NPA's Alfredo Cesar Command that operates in southern Ilocos Sur owned responsibility for the killings.

The command accused Hernaez of being "anti-people and counter-revolutionary" during his term as mayor of Sta. Lucia.

"He may be old but the people will no longer tolerate any extension of his vile and greedy life and governance," a press release from the command said.

It said the Hernaez family is "one of the biggest and most despotic landlords of Sta. Lucia. Their feudal exploitation of the tenant farmers is utterly vicious."

The NPA also said Hernaez used his men to kill NPA cadres and supplied information to the military regarding the movements of the rebel group. ***Leoncio Balbin Jr. with a report from Frank Cimatu, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau***

Election posters trashed

BAGUIO CITY—Some 800 government employees on Monday scrubbed, peeled and, in most cases, trashed campaign materials illegally posted around the city.

Romeo Concio, Baguio general services officer, said the employees removed illegal posters, stickers and streamers of both national and local candidates, including streamers of incumbent officials running for new government seats, "essentially for the annual Earth Day celebration."

The volunteer drive was launched a week after government workers, on a routine clean-up drive here, were threatened by an irate supporter of a local candidate.

Concio said an old man threatened to shoot the two employees, who were busy scrubbing off a power line pole peppered with national and local posters, along Bokawkan Road.

"We are taking such threats seriously, of course. But our street sweepers are bent on pursuing their roles during the elections," he said.

Concio said the threats had prepared them for an even more heated campaign toward the end of April and on the first week of May.

He said he had asked for an additional complement of 25-30 students to be hired as casuals by the city government.

Concio said six teams of students would be fielded around the city's barangays.

He also prepared a new post-election campaign clean-up contest involving 129 barangays, allotting P30,000 for cash prizes. ***Vincent Cabreza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau***

Public toy 'library' to rise in Digos City

DIGOS CITY—A public toy "library," the first of its kind in the country, will soon rise here.

Carlos Lopez, barangay chair of Zone III, the largest village here in terms of population, said the "library" would house expensive toys for free use of children, particularly those coming from poor families.

The facility is actually a mini-park exclusive for children.

Lopez said the barangay council had initially earmarked P250,000 for the purchase of toys, but a group of professionals had also pledged to help.

"This should have been implemented in 1989. What hindered us then was the site. We originally identified a portion of the Rizal Park but we were discouraged by Mayor Arsenio Latasa because it proved to be too small," Lopez said.

The barangay council recently agreed that the "library" be put up in a bigger area near the city gymnasium, Lopez said.

Lopez said the idea actually came from his children who now live in Canada.

"They told me that in Canada, there is this place where children could develop their social life and enrich their experience. The only difference is that in Canada, parents would spend for this. I presented the idea to the barangay council and they approved it without hesitation," he said.

Lopez said the barangay council also approved the idea that solicitation of old toys from rich families here would be initiated to expand the collection.

"Instead of putting the toys of their children in a *bodega* where these will just gather dust, we thought of asking rich people to donate these toys to the "library" so that other children, particularly those coming from the poor families, could enjoy them," he said. ***Allan Nawal, PDI Mindanao Bureau***

2 truckloads of logs seized at barricade

CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY—Farmers and fishers who set up a barricade on a major highway to stop the entry of illegally cut logs to this city, seized two truckloads of logs Sunday night.

The trucks were delivering the logs to Vicmar Development Corp., a logging company, when these were blocked by protesters in Barangay Lumbia.

The protesters turned over the trucks to police for safekeeping while waiting for word from Environment Secretary Heherson Alvarez.

SPO2 Emmanuel Akut, leader of the police team at the Lumbia station, said the truck drivers failed to produce papers to prove that the transport of the logs was legal.

The protesters, many of them armed with iron spikes, barricaded the Talakag-Cagayan de Oro highway on Sunday in a bid to stop logging in the vital Lanao del Sur Watershed.

BenCyrus Ellorin, spokesperson of Task Force Macajalar, said his group also learned that the Department of Environment and Natural Resources monitoring station in Lumbia did not have a complete list of Vicmar's logging trucks.

Ellorin said DENR personnel should keep a proper accounting of the logs being cut and delivered to the firm.

Department records showed that former environment secretary Antonio Cerilles granted an Industrial Forestry Management Agreement (Ifma) to Vicmar after the firm was found to have "no adverse effects on the environment."

Cerilles also allowed the company to cut some 15,000 cubic meters a year from its tree production. ***Froilan Gallardo, PDI Mindanao Bureau***

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Jealousy, drugs seen behind Vizcaya killings

BAYOMBONG, Nueva Vizcaya—Relatives of the Afalla family say drugs and jealousy could be behind the slaying of Aperacion Afalla and her three children here last week.

Police said the prime suspect, Danilo Afalla, husband of Aperacion and father of the children, had left the country for Germany on Thursday night. Danilo is a ship mechanic in a foreign vessel.

The bodies of Aperacion, 38, and her children, Cheenie Claire, 13; Mark Anthony, 11; and Michael Angelo, 5, were dug up in a shallow grave in the banks of the Magat River here on Wednesday last week.

The victims reportedly suffered from blows to their heads.

According to Aperacion's father Apolinario Panopio, 71, and her siblings, Danilo had shown unusual changes in his behavior lately.

"*Naging* chain-smoker *siya at palaging nakatingin sa mukha ni* Recy (Aperacion). *At hindi na siya nakikihalubilo* (He became a chain-smoker. He was always staring at Recy's face and refused to mingle with people)," said Aperacion's sister Alen.

Aperacion's younger sister Fe, 26, described Danilo as a "jealous husband."

She said even Aperacion's brothers and sisters had become the objects of Danilo's jealousy.

Lately, Fe said Danilo had been looking haggard.

"*Parang kulang siya sa tulog* (He looked like he lacked sleep)," she said.

Eddie Panopio, elder brother of Aperacion, said when he fetched Danilo at the airport during a vacation in 1999, he noticed that Danilo could not easily recognize him.

"*Para siyang tulala* (As if he were in shock)," he said.

Eddie said he learned from Danilo that a Filipino cook in their ship was forcing him to drink cocaine-laced coffee.

Eddie said Danilo protested the cook's action but the latter threatened Danilo.

Eddie said Danilo did not give any more details about that incident.

Eddie said his sister Aperacion had taken Danilo to a psychiatrist because of his unusual behavior.

"The doctor advised him to rest from two to five months for him to recuperate. But we were surprised when he immediately returned to work," Eddie recalled.

Panopio, Aperacion's father, said the death of his daughter and grandchildren came as a shock.

"*Nagtataka kami kung bakit nagawa niya ito* (We were amazed why Danilo did this)," said Panopio. "*Napakabait na tao yan, wala akong masasabi. Tahimik at hindi palasalita. Hindi ko akalain na magagawa niya ito* (He is a good person. I cannot say anything bad about him. He seldom talks. I never thought he could do this)."

"*Kailangang mabigyan ng hustisya ang aking anak at mga apo* (Justice should be given to my daughter and grandchildren)," he said.

Panopio also corrected police reports that described Aperacion as pregnant when her body was recovered.

He said the police thought she was pregnant because her belly was bloated. ***Ben Moses Ebreo, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau***

Negros Or. police chief relieved

DUMAGUETE CITY—Director General Leandro Mendoza, Philippine National Police (PNP) chief, has ordered the relief of Supt. Voltaire Calzado as director of the Negros Oriental police.

Chief Supt. Avelino Razon, PNP director for Central Visayas, informed Gov. George Arnaiz of Mendoza's directive in a letter dated April 19. The letter was received only Monday afternoon.

Razon also named Supt. Drusillo Bolodo, PNP regional personnel officer, as officer in charge until Calzado's permanent replacement is named.

Bolodo, a member of Philippine Military Class '79, will be the second Dumagueteño to hold the top PNP position in the province. Supt. Constantino Sayson was provincial police commander in the 1980s.

In his letter, Razon said Calzado's relief order would be issued as soon as the Commission on Elections approves the transfer.

It was not, however, stated why Calzado was being relieved, except that it was being done "in the interest of the service" and "upon the orders of the PNP chief."

Calzado also declined to comment on the reason for his impending replacement. "Just like a good soldier," he said, he would follow the orders of his superiors.

"I don't want to exacerbate the situation," he said.

News of Calzado's transfer spread after reelectionist Rep. Jacinto Paras (first district) accused the police officer in a radio interview of being biased in favor of Arnaiz, who is seeking reelection under the Nationalist People's Coalition.

Alex Pal, PDI Visayas Bureau

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MAY 14, 2001

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Bakit si Kiko Pangilinan?

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When politics means jobs, public works contracts

BY MAURICE MALANES
Benguet

TIME was when a municipal council position did not attract ordinary folk because the per diem allowance for the twice-a-month council meetings was too meager.

Very few would run for councilor because becoming one would just get in the way of farming and other more enterprising ventures. Mayoral aspirants thus had a hard time completing their lineup.

Not anymore.

In the upland town of Kibungan, Benguet (pop: 16,000), 30 candidates, both young and aging are vying for eight seats in the municipal council.

The list of candidates includes fresh college graduates who have yet to find jobs, a former personnel in an interim Cordillera regional body that was abolished, small-time contractors, former casual government employees and farmers.

As their election handouts say, all vow to serve their community through municipal legislation that will serve the youth, farmers and the community at large.

But many residents say the monthly pay of a councilor is the prime motivation for the deluge of candidates. For participating, if not simply attending a weekly session, a councilor in this fifth-class town (annual income: between P4 million and P8 million) is paid P18,000 monthly, which is a far cry from the P600 per diem of councilors some years ago.

In the village, an P18,000 monthly income is relatively big.

A farmer or entrepreneur serving as councilor can still do his other occupation for the rest of the week.

But some voters are maturing.

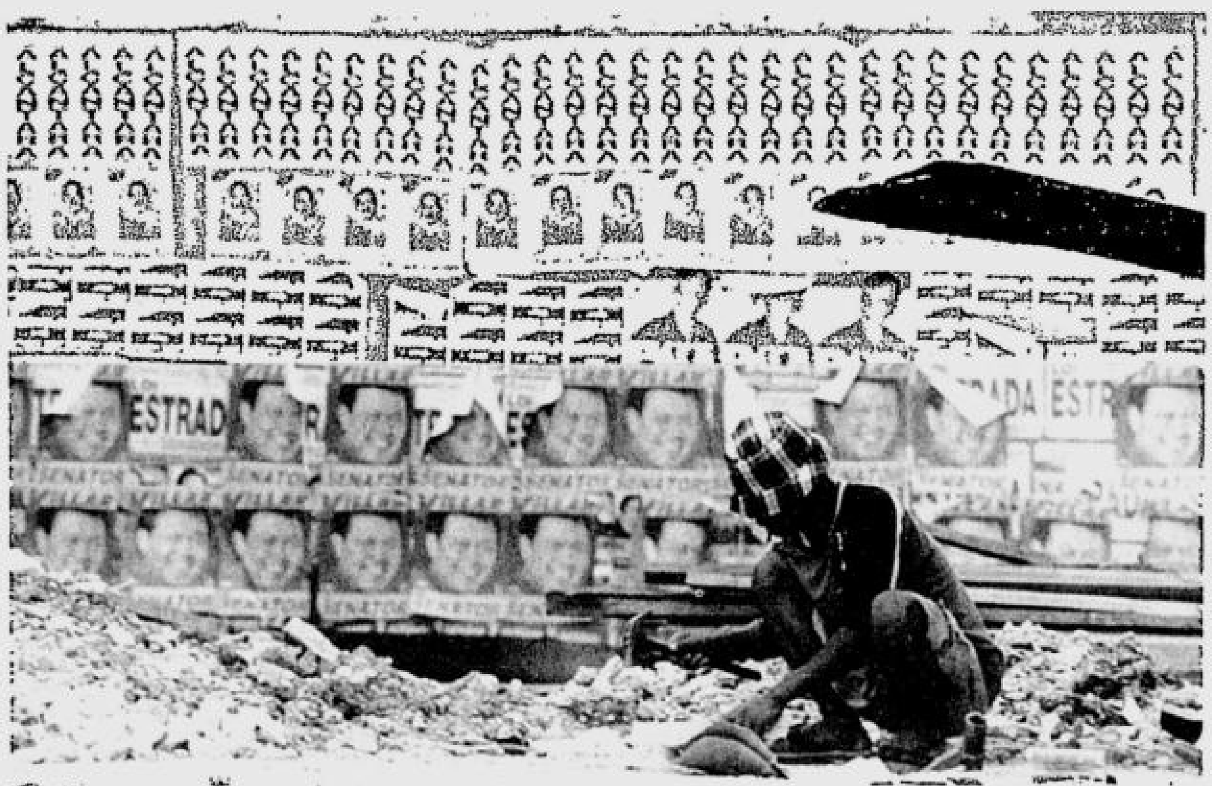
For example, officials of Madaymen, one of the seven barangays of Kibungan, requested the municipal council recently to furnish them with a list of ordinances and resolutions that the incumbent councilors had done so far.

The officials say the documents will be among their bases in voting for, or rejecting, reelectionist councilors on May 14.

This posture has kept many of the non-performing reelectionist councilors worried, says a voter in Madaymen, the only commercial-vegetable producing village of Kibungan.

In neighboring Kapangan town, retired teachers and principals running for elective positions are also often rejected by voters. The reason? These retirees are receiving monthly pensions and, therefore, other unemployed people must be given priority.

"So the general criteria is not the ability to help weld municipal legislation, but something else. Politics here is about job placement," says a retired principal.


CAMPAIGN posters will hardly matter to most voters in several upland towns in Benguet. GENE BOYD LUMAWAG

Public works contractors also continue to play a role in Benguet politics.

Kibungan folk, for example, were surprised to see a coterie of contractors who went to their town recently with congressional candidate Samuel Dangwa. The contractors used to back incumbent Rep. Ronald Cosalan, who is now seeking reelection.

As one contractor lamented, he campaigned hard for Cosalan in the last elections, even spending his own money, thinking that he would get his return of investments (ROI) later in the form of public works contracts.

He did not get any, he said.

Hoping for some ROI later, the contractor is now supporting Dangwa. Contractors who used to support Cosalan but were left out in the cold are now reportedly the key campaign leaders of Dangwa.

"As if politics is simply about juicy public works contracts," says a young professional in the town, shaking his head.

La Union town hosts world's biggest yacht race

BY GIA DAMASO-DUMO
La Union

UNKNOWN to many, what could well be the biggest biennial offshore yacht race in the world has its destination in the laid-back beach town of Bauang, La Union.

Bauang, over the Easter weekend, was roused by the arrival of over 250 sailors aboard 33 yachts of all sizes that competed in the 480-mile Hong Kong-San Fernando Regatta.

This local sporting classic, better known among yachtsmen as the San Fernando Race (a misnomer, since none of the vessels actually dock at San Fernando), started in 1975.

It is organized every two years by the Royal Hong Kong Yacht Club, the largest yacht club in the world with over 4,000 members, according to Suzie Nowell, editor of the club's official magazine "Ahoy!" and herself a former race champion.

This year, the race finished with two new records—one in the performance handicap division and the other in the racing division—and drew entrants from Singapore, Australia, Japan, United Kingdom, the United States and Hong Kong, according to Pixie Thomas, one of the organizers.

Thomas said the event would be featured in a half-hour show distributed by BBC Worldwide and broadcast on networks, such as ESPN Star Sports in Asia, Fox Sports in Australia, Sky in the UK, Canal Plus in Europe and PASN in South America.

Entry forms and race information are even accessible on the web.

Lamentably, however, with the exception of immigration and customs officials, the association of local banca operators and resort owners who hosted the sailors, no other local government agencies or private media or tourism-oriented groups knew of the event.

Race records

On Black Saturday, the lone catamaran, Atmosphere, skippered by Frenchman Benoit Lesaffre, beat all other boats to the finish line set up several hundred meters from the world-famous beaches of Paringao, Bauang, after rounding Poro Point in San Fernando.

The multi-hull Atmosphere placed first in the performance handicap division by clocking in at two days, one hour, 56 minutes and two seconds-seven minutes faster than the record set by Englishman Lawrie Smith on the maxi yacht Rothmans in 1991.

The mono-hull Free Fire, with Chinese yachtsman Sam Chan at the helm, broke the record in the racing division with a time of two days, one hour, 55 minutes and 12 seconds.

Also among the first to arrive Saturday were Outrageous (Gerry Daughton, skipper); Philippine entry Maligaya (Andres Soriano III); and clippers Jersey and London (Paul de la Haye and Stuart Gibson).

Maligaya was on its first long-distance race, according to organizers.

Thomas said the boats were also likely to bring home prizes in their respective divisions (the awards were still being determined in Hong Kong by the committee at press time). There were divisions for racing, premier cruising, clipper and performance handicap.

This year's regatta earned added prestige when it was joined for the first time by eight identical Pederick 60 clippers which were on a round-the-world passage from Portsmouth (United Kingdom) organized by Clipper Ventures.

Led by Sir Robin Knox-Johnston, the Times Clippers (so-called because they were sponsored by the British newspaper) are sailing the Atlantic and Pacific oceans and joined the San Fernando Race as the fourth leg of their 11-month journey.

The clipper fleet represents Plymouth, London, Leeds, Bristol, Liverpool, Glasgow, Portsmouth and Jersey and their crew come from all walks of life. Organizers said the Round the World Yacht Race would henceforth be synchronized with the San Fernando Race, both being biennial events.

Enjoying each other

Why do yachtsmen do what they do?

Quoted in Fragrant Harbor, a yachtsman once said: "Is it to celebrate some ancient and atavistic rite . . . slow torture under a burning sun . . . is it to mortify our too frequently pampered flesh? Nah, it's to have a ball at the other end and a bit of bronzie on the way whilst enjoying each other's company and having a laugh."

And enjoy they did with their crew and families who flew in to join the sailors in Bauang for the big weekend party attended by some 500 cruising aficionados.

"Everyone just can't get enough of the San Miguel Beer and the *calamansi*-rhum," Thomas said. And local hosts Robin and Carol Rossiter of Cabaña Resort had made sure these drinks were ready and overflowing.

Lesaffre said he found sailing on his fabulous boat a "very relaxing experience" compared with his hectic routine as a businessman in Hong Kong.

"It's nice to be out there in the open ocean, in a very maritime type of atmosphere and at full speed, and then to finish in a natural, laid-back place like Bauang," he said.

But to De la Haye, who is on his 17th event, joining the race is just a "personal challenge" and a way by which yachtsmen "learn more about themselves."

Sailing for a cause

For a sport usually reserved for the rich, charity added light to the beacon of personal challenge among the competitors.

A day after arriving in Bauang, RHKYC Commodore John Leigh and event chair Vic Locke led the sailors in visiting the Full Gospel Faith Temple orphanage at Barangay Santiago in San Fernando.

The club had earlier made a HK$350,000 donation to the institution for building improvements. It has been supporting the orphanage since 1993.

Previously, the orphanage was receiving assistance from American servicemen assigned at the former Wallace Air Station at Poro Point, but it fell in dire straits after the US pulled out its military bases.

Before embarking from Hong Kong, the club organized a charity dinner and raised fresh funds for the educational needs of 30 orphaned children now at the facility.

One of the vessels also carried goods intended for the orphans.

Moreover, a part of the participation fee for the race went to this charity.

"The Philippines is a haven for world-class cruising," said Bruce Curran, author of "Cruising Guide to the Philippine Islands."

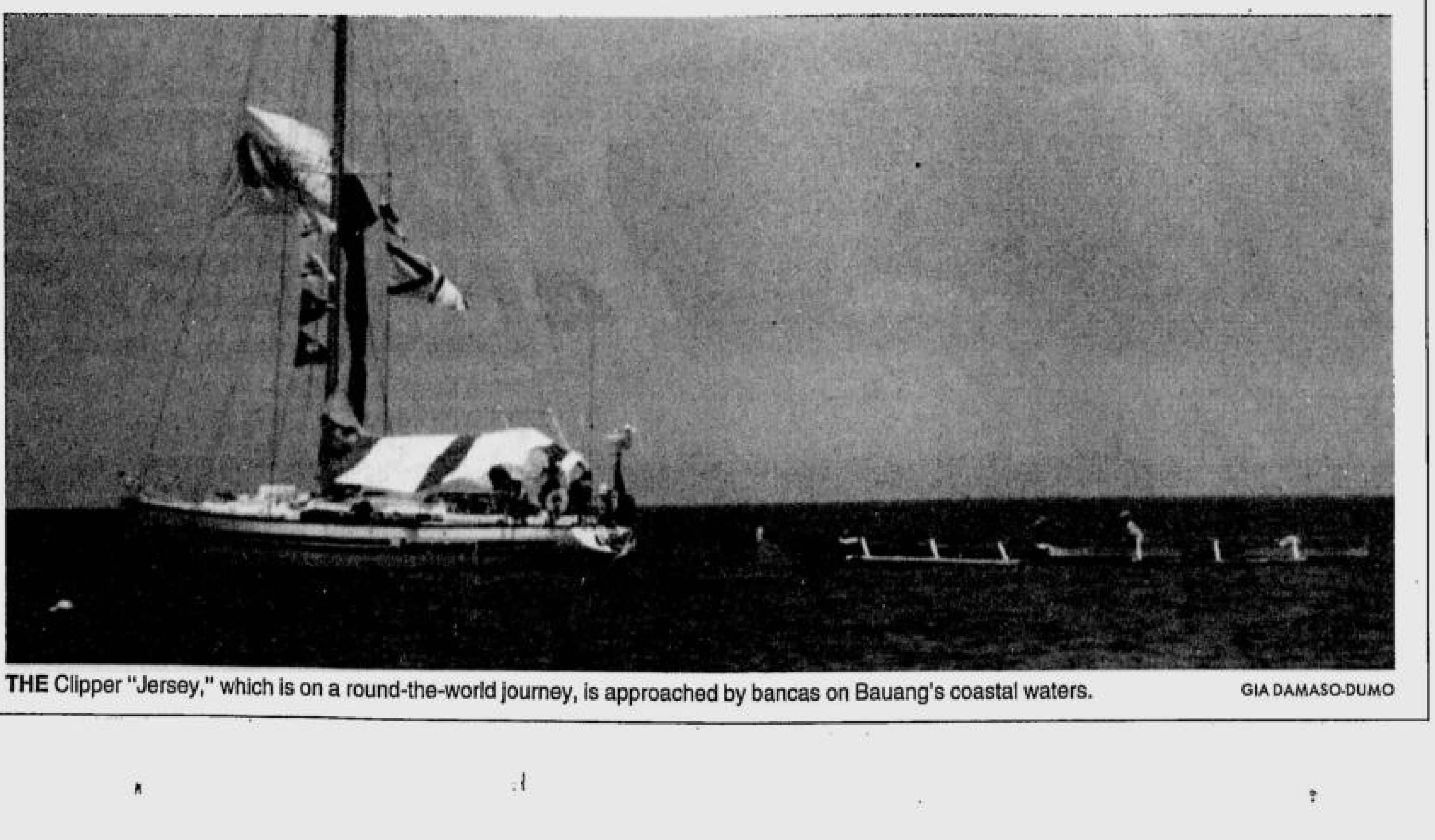
Curran has been a cruising hobbyist for the past 10 years and is particularly enchanted with the eastern coast of Luzon and Palawan.

Calling this correspondent from Manila, Curran lamented the fact that so little coverage has been given to the San Fernando Race by the Philippine media although it has been the "biggest in the world."

But from the point of view of this quiet fisherman's town, whose small claim to yachting fame is limited to sharing the coastal waters lapping at Gov. Luis "Chavit" Singson's P55-million, 85-foot Escalera in Ilocos Sur, the regatta is literally a gift of the winds.

Come April 2003, when the brisk northeasterly wind starts to blow, the yachts would again come. Banca owners would again be able to earn a little more money, cleaning and refueling the boats, and providing conveyance to the yachtsmen.

Resort owners could have more occupants and sell a little more booze. And a group of orphans would again have a boatload of gifts to rummage through.


THE Clipper "Jersey," which is on a round-the-world journey, is approached by bancas on Bauang's coastal waters. GIA DAMASO-DUMO

HOMETOWN *Snapshots*

Date spots

GLORIA Macapagal-Arroyo dropped her presidential mantle on Black Saturday to visit her "date spots" in Baguio City which she used to frequent with then boyfriend and now husband Jose Miguel Arroyo 31 years ago.

The President mingled with tourists, walking through Burnham Park, contemplating a romantic boat ride in its manmade lake, and buying Baguio products, even from some of the city's favorite tourist haunts.

Lawyer **Concepcion Luis**, a Malacañang coordinator in Baguio, said the Arroyo couple, like common tourists, ended up buying a kilo of fresh Benguet strawberries for P150, two kilos of grapes for P200, and four pieces of Baguio brooms for P100, when she toured the public market.

Ms Macapagal also bought a bottle of *lengua de gato*, a favorite date food, Luis said.

"They were so sweet, they were like first-time daters. You can see it in their eyes," she said.

She said the First Couple first met in Baguio and actually dated there for sometime, frequenting Burnham Lake, which provides the best view of "a romantic Baguio full moon."

Baguio had always been part of Ms Macapagal's growing up years. She often stayed at the presidential Mansion during the term of her father, the late **Diosdado Macapagal**, in the 1960s. *Vincent Cabreza*

Gift of life

IN THE PERSON of the late Air Force Capt. **Mary Grace Baloyo**, Christ's gift of salvation on Easter Sunday came early to residents and officials of Mabalacat, Pampanga.

"Like Christ, she offered us the gift of life," said **Abella Tolentino**, on whose brother's vacant lot in Barangay Mabiga in Mabalacat Baloyo steered her troubled OV-10 Bronco propeller-driven fighter plane to crash landing shortly before 4 p.m. of March 26.

"She died so we might live," Tolentino, speaking in Kapampangan, said of the heroic act of Baloyo who, at the time of her death, was a first lieutenant and one of six combat pilots of the Philippine Air Force.

In opting not to eject and in her resoluteness to maneuver her plane away from thickly populated areas, Col. **Charles Hotchkiss**, deputy wing commander of the 1st Tactical Operations Wing based in Clark, said Baloyo saved the lives of more than 200 residents in Fil-Homes subdivision.

"She really put us to safety even though she knew it was risky to her life. We are so much grateful to her," Tolentino said.

"If not for her valiant act, there would have been many dead and homeless residents by now," Mabalacat Mayor **Marino Morales** said.

Mabalacat Vice Mayor **Prospero Lagman** said the municipal government had set aside funds for a memorial marker that would be installed at the crash site to "honor a young, courageous woman who gave up her life for others." *Tonette Orejas*

Davide swears in 'Estrada'

CHIEF Justice Hilario Davide Jr. inducted into office "President Estrada" at the Baguio Country Club early this month.

Estrada, however, is not the deposed president but lawyer **Abelardo Estrada,** who took his oath as the new president of the Integrated Bar of the Philippines Baguio-Benguet chapter.

The name "Estrada" again provided the light moment for lawyers and judges who attended the IBP induction program. And Davide, who presided over the aborted impeachment trial of the disgraced leader, added to the program's comic relief when he gave his share on his turn to speak.

Lawyer Estrada, however, disclosed that his family name aborted his plan to run for public office following the former president's exit from Malacañang on Jan. 20.

When it was lawyer Estrada's turn to deliver his acceptance speech, he started by saying: "On Nov. 30, 1998, Davide took his oath as the

SNAPSHOTS/p.A19

‘Eco-kids’ protect village from litterbugs

BY VINCENT CABREZA
Baguio City

ADULTS “with no toilet training,” who venture into Barangay Salud Mitra in Baguio City, should always beware of children.

Grade school pupils, Raffy Halog, 7, and Jazjaz Bernal, 10, for example, prowl around the village at 4:45 p.m. every day, seeking out litterbugs.

When they chance upon an offender urinating on the concrete fence of a neighbor, Raffy usually gives out a warning: “*Bawal umihi dito!* (Urinating here is prohibited).”

Advice from Raffy about accepted public manners is usually enough deterrence to polluters in this side of Baguio, said Nilda Galace, Salud Mitra’s barangay captain.

Baguio is a certified Hall of Famer for winning four times the award for the cleanest and greenest highly urbanized city in the country.

But when an adult refuses to heed the Salud Mitra children, he usually ends up dealing with the whole community, Galace warned.

Galace has been nurturing an environmental policing system since July 2000, using pre-teens and elementary school children—with the blessings of their parents.

The concept, dubbed simply by the barangay as “Kiddie Brigade,” was drawn up as a two-pronged approach to maintain peace and order and sanitation in the community, as well as to provide new avenues to draw the interest of children in barangay affairs.

Galace, widow of human rights lawyer Arthur Galace, said some 50 children were enlisted and deputized as ecology patrol officers, each of whom is given powers to castigate and penalize anyone found violating the city’s anti-littering and anti-vandalism ordinances.

‘Eco-patrol’

Each “eco-patrol officer” is provided a uniform gear, composed of a pen and a make-shift ticketing pad, and a white shirt emblazoned with the “eco-patrol” badge.

The children wear identification cards, bearing security tags from the barangay council. Their “pollution tickets” are actually handwritten citations that warn violators about their misdeeds.

These children do not collect penalty fees. Instead, an offender caught for the third time, after receiving eco-patrol citations, is immediately referred to barangay officials.

“We (the barangay government) are empowered to sue these offenders before the court. We want to protect our barangay. This is our home. Most of the offenders we confront are usually not from here,” Galace said.

Salud Mitra (pop.: 3,015), encompasses Jungletown, one of the oldest villages of Baguio, which was built by the American colonial government in 1908.

“Jungletown was the home of the first civil servants at the turn of the 20th century in the city. That was why it was relevant to our history,” said Virginia de Guia, the first post-World War II mayor of Baguio.

“Our parents know about (the barangay’s) real legacy and that is why they are close-knit. The parents are happy their children are contributing to the community. The barangay has been raising both funds, and civic consciousness, to (fuel) this program,” Galace said.

The stakes have since gone up with the campaign season rearing its ugly head in the barangay.

Galace said the children have doubled up their patrols against wayward campaigners, who traditionally stick posters around residential blocks without the owners’ consent or supervision.

“Our children help stop the political garbage from expanding into their homes. They are advised about proper election poster sites and they know the posters or the stickers should not be appearing around their block. I think we shocked some of the campaigners from Manila, who did not expect to be blocked by the barangay,” Galace said.

‘Girl power’

“Girl power” has also joined in.

Originally manned by schoolboys, the Salud Mitra “Kiddie Brigade” has since incorporated female elementary and high school children.

The girls’ entry has mobilized a healthy rivalry among the eco-patrollers, with the boys and girls competing for cleaner and safer districts, which they are obliged to man.

“They are like their age. The girls and boys are in competition. The patrols are divided by gender at the moment,” Galace said.

The patrol’s chief offenders appear to be taxi drivers, who stop every lunch break to grab a bite from side-street *carinderias* (eateries) that line the barangay.

Offices and the elementary school of the University of Baguio also draw their own visitors.

But this is a “thankless job,” admitted Dennis Halog, who at 13 is the president of this motley band of “eco-enforcers.”

“I once caught an elderly man urinating near a wall and I asked him to stop. We are always instructed to be courteous, so all I said was: ‘Please, do not pee on the wall. That is a violation of our ordinance.’ But he got angry,” David said.

“*Sabi noong matanda sa akin, ‘Wala kang pakialam, hindi ikaw ang may-ari ng barangay!’ Binibigyan ko siya ng* warning, *pero tinalikuran na lang ako* (The old man responded: ‘You have no right to interfere with my business, you do not own the barangay!’ I tried to issue him a citation, but he ignored me),” Halog said.

Galace said health workers and nutrition experts in her barangay have been working in tandem to monitor these abuses from offenders whom the eco-patrol children will inevitably encounter.

But she stressed that the children have managed to take terse, even volatile reactions, in stride.

Even David thinks the verbal abuse he first encountered last year would never discourage the kid patrol.

“As long as we are courteous, we think the adults who (yell at us for doing our jobs) are more petty, and should be more embarrassed,” he said.

VINCENT CABREZA

MEMBERS of Salud Mitra’s “Kiddie Brigade” mean business when they confront litterbugs in their village in Baguio City.

Snapshots . . .

(From page A18)

new chief justice of the Supreme Court before President Estrada. Tonight, President Estrada has just taken his oath before Davide.”

In his own speech, Davide greeted the members of the bar as follows: “Executive judges and judges, President Abelardo Estrada . . . I have to complete the name to avoid misunderstanding.”

Estrada, however, turned serious when asked why he decided to cancel his plan to run for Baguio councilor in the May 14 elections.

Blaming the deposed president, he said: “I believe that my family name has already become detestable to the voting public and my chances of winning have dimmed.” *Delmar Cariño*

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DAY 1 (WED) CONFERENCE PROGRAM

09:00 - 09:15
Welcome of Delegates

09:15 - 09:45
Consumer Value:
Key to Economic Development
DTI Secretary *Mar Roxas*

09:45 - 10:35
Overview of ECR and
ECR Philippines and Update of ECR Initiatives
ECRP Co-chairs, *Pong Ejercito, Unilever Philippines and JDH Zuellig*

10:35 -10:50 Break

10:50 - 11:20
ECR Delivers in Traditional Setting
Christina Tan, SuySing

11:20 -12:30
The Global ECR Scorecard:
Capability Assessment tool
Patrick Medley, Price Waterhouse Cooper
Case Study: Johson & Johnson

12:30 - 02:00 Lunch

02:00 - 02:45
Connecting Your Backroom Supply Chain for Productive Synchronization
Case Study: CMC & San Miguel Packaging

02:45 - 03:15
Win-Win Approach In Increasing Consumer Value
Case Study: SLOG of P&G
Procter & Gamble and Supervalue, Inc.

03:15 - 03:45
Slipsheets: The Pallet Alternative
Nestle Philippines

03:45-4:00 Break

04:00 - 4:30
Improve Your Warehousing Operations thru Pallet Pooling
Case Study: Pilot Project of ECRP :
Unilever Philippines and Rustan's

04:30 - 05:15
Delivering a More Responsive Distribution System-DMAP

05:15 - 05:45
Reducing Inventory thru VMI
Unilever Philippines and Grocont

05:45 - 06:00
Launch of ECRP Website-www.ecrphils.com
ECRP Marketing and Communications

DAY 2 (THU) CONFERENCE PROGRAM

08:30 - 08:40
Program Introduction

08:40 - 09:20
Consumer Act of Purchase
Catherine Moffat, *Trading-Up Inc.*

09:20 - 10:00
The Filipino Shoppers
AC Nielsen

10:00 - 10:45
Consumer Value Creation
Price Waterhouse Cooper

10:45 - 11:00 Break

11:00 - 12:00
Winning Through Category Management Partnership
Case Study: Unilever & Robinson's
Case Study, P&G and Rustan's

12:00 - 12:30
The Role of EAN to ECR
Peppy Albert, *Philippine Article Numbering Council*

12:30-02:00 Lunch

02:00 - 02:45
EDI Application in SM Supermarket
Supervalue, Inc.

02:45 - 03:45
Electronic Funds Flow Towards Zero Reconciliation
Case Study: SuySing and Unionbank

03:45 - 04:00 Break

04:00 - 04:30
E-Market in the Philippines

04:30 - 05:00
Revolutionizing Your Business Through IT
SAP

05:00 - 05:45
Senior Executive Panel Discussion
Hilario Marasigan (Facilitator),
Ateneo Graduate School of Business

05:45 - 06:00
Conclusion of Plenary Discussion
ECRP Co-Chairs
Pong Ejercito, *Unilever Philippines* and Jess Dinglasan, *JDH-Zuellig*

DAY 3 (FRI) CONFERENCE PROGRAM

08:30 - 11:30
ECR Concepts
ECR Philippines

02:00 - 03:00
Demand Track: Preparing Your Organization for the Demand Side of ECR
Unilever Philippines
Supply Track: ECR Global Scorecard
Price Waterhouse Cooper
Supply Track: Industry Standards of Palletization
ECR Philippines

04:00 - 05:30
Denmark Track: Preparing Your Organization for the Demand Side of ECR
Unilever Philippines

Enabler Track: E-Commerce-Enabler of Supply Chain Management
eCommerce Philippines Inc.

Supply Track: Industry Standards of Palletization
ECR Philippines

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‘General, keep cell open’

(From page A1)

words," Raymond Fortun, one of Estrada's lawyers, said of the deposed President's reaction to Garchitorena's announcement.

Asked if a ruling might be handed down this morning, Garchitorena said, "Tomorrow is another day. We shall see tomorrow."

The court would issue an arrest warrant if it determined that there was "probable cause" to hold the 64-year-old Estrada in jail for the duration of the trial.

Plunder, the systematic theft from the government of at least P50 million, is a non-bailable capital offense.

Estrada is accused of using his position and influence to amass more than P4 billion through a combination of illegal means.

Garchitorena doused fears that a warrant might be issued after office hours yesterday.

"It is possible theoretically but we don't do that sort of thing. After office hours, we shut down our support services and the only ones around, besides security guards, are the justices working. And believe me they do not issue orders of arrest," he said.

Security

PNP officials said "Oplan Sagip" would also provide security to Estrada from his arrest to his transport to his detention cell at the PNP Special Action Forces Training and Seminar Center in Fort Sto. Domingo, Sta. Rosa, Laguna.

Oplan personnel mostly come from the Crowd Dispersal Control Units in Metro Manila.

Lantion disclosed that two teams, Alpha and Bravo, would serve Estrada's warrant. Team Alpha is composed of top PNP officials.

Director General Leandro Mendoza, the PNP chief, along with 30 fully armed PNP contingent, will personally serve the warrant of arrest to Estrada in his house on Polk Street in North Greenhills, San Juan.

A convoy of at least seven vehicles, including two fire trucks, will accompany Mendoza and his team.

Augmentation forces from the Armed Forces, composed of some 5,000 Marines, will complement the police forces and will be scattered in strategic places in the metropolis, according to Lantion.

He said that the augmentation forces and PNP officials would stay at Camp Crame's gymnasium.

Police forces, which have been placed on red alert for Estrada's impending arrest, are primarily concerned with Estrada's supporters who promised not to leave their idol. *(See related story on Page A1.)*

If the situation on the ground becomes unmanageable, police are ready to airlift Estrada by helicopter. Three helicopters are on standby at the Camp Crame parade grounds.

Unnecessary show of force

Fortun scoffed at what he considered an "unnecessary show of force" on the part of the Macapagal administration in securing Estrada.

"No need for the Special Action Forces, for helicopters, for tanks. All these are just unnecessary use of government funds to wage psychological warfare (against my client)," Fortun said.

Lantion said the PNP's five district commands—Eastern, Central, Western, Northern and Southern Districts—were mobilized to secure the route that the Estrada convoy would be taking.

."The PNP's land, sea and air security forces were tapped to secure and protect the deposed President during his arrest and transport to his detention cell in Sta. Rosa, Laguna," Lantion told reporters.

Asked why it would take 6,500 police personnel to enforce the arrest of Estrada, Lantion said the force was also needed to prevent the Melito Glor Command of the New People's Army from seizing the deposed President.

Lantion said the Melito Glor had threatened to enforce a "people's arrest" on Estrada.

The Melito Glor had also announced that it would put Estrada on "public trial" for his "blood debts" to the people.

Just phone

Fortun said the arrest warrant need not reach Polk Street.

"A phone call (from the sheriff's office) will do," he said at a press conference.

But he said the Estrada camp had asked the Sandiganbayan's sheriff office to grant the accused "two to three hours lead time" from the moment the warrant is issued.

Fortun said the lead time would allow Estrada to "pack up, wrap up, say goodbye to loved ones" and negotiate the "inevitable traffic" leading to the courthouse.

He said there was no need for police officials to personally accost Estrada from his home to the Sandiganbayan on Commonwealth Avenue in Quezon City.

"We don't need to be fetched. We will go there without police escort," the lawyer said.

At the Sandiganbayan, the police will fingerprint and take mug shots of Estrada.

Go easy on Erap

Seconding Fortun was former Interior Secretary Alfredo Lim. He asked police authorities to go easy when they arrest Estrada, saying that the disgraced leader "would surrender peacefully."

"The police should not worry much because I believe he will give himself up without resistance," Lim told the INQUIRER in a phone interview.

A mayoral candidate in Manila, Lim said it was up to police authorities to take the necessary precautions in arresting Estrada as long as the arrest was done in a non-violent way.

Lim said Estrada was familiar with top government officials being placed under arrest because the former President was present when Lim, the head then of the National Bureau of Investigation, arrested former Defense Secretary Juan Ponce Enrile in 1990 for alleged complicity in the coup that almost toppled the Aquino administration in 1989.

In fact, Lim said, then Senator Estrada requested that he (Estrada) accompany Enrile to the Quezon City Regional Trial Court, where the arrested lawmaker posted bail.

‘Non-bailable inmate’

By Christine Herrera

OUSTED President Joseph Estrada will be called a "non-bailable inmate."

There will be "no special treatment, no drinking, no gambling, no phone calls" for Estrada during his detention, according to Director Thompson Lantion, chief of the PNP directorate for police community relations.

Lantion reportedly has provided Estrada with an "orientation handbook" for inmates containing the "dos and don'ts" inside and outside the ousted President's 80-squaremeter air-conditioned detention cell.

According to the handbook, a copy of which was obtained by the INQUIRER, Estrada is allowed to receive mail and packages, but these will be subjected to censorship.

"This would prevent the possibility of smuggling contrabands such as prohibited drugs, alcoholic drinks and escape plans using the mail as a means of illicit communications," Lantion explained.

While Mr. Estrada will be allowed to entertain visitors in his receiving area, he will not be allowed to "drink and gamble" with them.

The jail guards are barred from accepting any drink offered by the inmate as the drink maybe mixed with prohibited or regulated drugs that may affect the guards' sensory perceptions.

"All his guests and visitors would be searched and inspected before entering the receiving area," Lantion said. "All weapons and other paraphernalia that could result in making possible Mr. Estrada's escape would be confiscated.

Lantion said even if Mr. Estrada's visitors include police and military generals, they, too, would have to turn in their firearms to the custodian guards.

Other potentially dangerous articles such as bottles, acids, kitchen knives would be kept out of Estrada's reach, the handbook says.

While sleeping

Deep in his sleep, Estrada can expect an unannounced and unwelcome visitor in the middle of the night or at dawn.

The handbook specifically directs the guards to check on the physical presence of the inmate at least four times within 24 hours, aside from "frequent" surprise searches and inspection inside Estrada's cell.

Estrada's jailers were also given a copy of the handbook, Lantion said. They were specifically instructed "never to permit the inmate to handle keys."

At least Estrada will not be ordered around. The guards had been warned not to utilize him for any janitorial services and/or errand outside jail.

Jail guards are not allowed to open the inmate's quarters alone without the presence of another guard.

They are not allowed to sit, stand or walk next to the inmate while carrying a gun as this can easily be grabbed from them.

They were told to take the inmate out of jail "only upon the order of the court."

The most striking warning in the handbook: "Never underestimate a non-bailable inmate as a non-dangerous persons."

"Better be safe than sorry," Lantion declared.

Life goes on

Just outside the gates of the Estrada detention center, inside a makeshift billiard hall, the menfolk are concentrating on their games while Bon Jovi rock songs blare from a nearby house.

Farther down the road, some of the other men are hanging out in front of a sari-sari store exchanging small talk. When the INQUIRER approached the men, talk easily drifted to the impending incarceration of Estrada right within their midst.

"It's very quiet here and there are no troublemakers who make trouble," said one of the men.

"Is he really going to be brought here?" the men asked. The barrio folk themselves are unsure if they indeed will have a new neighbor.

Church protests planned VIP treatment for Erap

CATHOLIC bishops yesterday criticized special prison treatment being planned for deposed President Joseph Estrada, who faces imminent arrest for alleged corruption.

"Treat other prisoners like Estrada or treat Estrada like other prisoners," said the social action arm of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines.

Interior Secretary Jose Lina said on Monday that correction officials are building at least four special jail cells for the 64-year-old former movie star because of the "imminent danger" to his person should he be thrown in an ordinary cell in the company of common criminals.

The CBCP's National Secretariat for Social Action said in a statement that if Estrada gets a special cell, the government should also undertake "the installation of air conditioners, security guards, exercise areas and private toilets in all penal centers nationwide."

Otherwise, the ousted President should also suffer "the hellish conditions that ordinary inmates endure every day."

The group said the government should improve jail conditions for all inmates. *AFP*

Arrest first before motion to delay, says Desierto

(From page A1)

judicial system, which is constantly subjected to the corrosive influence of money and power," Capulong said.

Lichauco, for her part, said she and the others who comprised the broad coalition in People Power II, found it strange that the anti-graft court had yet to issue the warrants of arrest.

"The determination of a probable cause for the issuance of the warrants should not take that long," said Lichauco, a lawyer and former transportation undersecretary.

Militant groups blamed Malacañang for the Sandiganbayan's failure to issue an arrest warrant for Estrada.

Betrayal of People Power II

Kilusang Mayo Uno chair Crispin Beltran said his group had received reports that Malacañang had yet to give the go signal to the anti-graft court because the "Macapagal clique is not keen in pushing the arrest of Estrada and his cohorts until after the May 14 elections."

If this is true, the labor leader said, "then it is a betrayal of People Power II. It throws us back to the dark days of previous regimes, which all failed to prosecute the Marcoses and their cronies for big crimes and blatant corruption."

Sandiganbayan Presiding Justice Francis Garchitorena explained the delay in the issuance of the warrants of arrest.

He said the justices of the anti-graft court's third division were still studying and mulling over the plunder case.

"And if there are drafts to be made, undoubtedly they are preparing that . . . so that whatever comes out, comes out well," Garchitorena said.

"Whatever it is, they are preparing things very carefully so that when it is done, then you will have no questions about it," he told reporters.

Saguisag lawyers for Jinggoy

San Juan Mayor Jinggoy Estrada's legal defense was bolstered when former Sen. Rene Saguisag—a co-author of the 1991 plunder law—filed a motion to quash the plunder case against his client.

Saguisag and lawyer Jose Flaminiano said the information was "vague and bereft of particulars of times, places and amounts that would enable (Estrada) to prepare his defense."

They said the law on plunder should be voided because it was vague.

"How many criminal acts comprise a combination or a series? Would two do?" the lawyers asked.

If a public official steals P50 million over time, he may be a plunderer, according to Saguisag and Flaminiano.

But if he steals P1 billion in one deal and reforms, he is not a plunderer, they said.

This, they said, was based on the law, which states that the culprit "amasses, accumulates or acquires ill-gotten wealth through a combination or series of overt or criminal acts . . . in the aggregate amount or total value of P50 million."

They also said that Jinggoy—who was named in only one instance in the plunder case—could not be characterized as having taken part in a series or a combination of criminal acts.

"What penalty may then be imposed on such persons?" the lawyers asked.

In a statement, Saguisag said he decided to question the Plunder Law, even if he authored it, because the penalty was amended to death after his term as senator ended.

"Indeed, the death penalty did not pass during my term because, I fought and filibustered against it," he said.

Sto. Domingo folk welcome Erap's coming

(From page A1)

But suddenly, there's a hustle and bustle about the once-quiet barrio. The folk are concerned about the disturbance that the presence of deposed President Estrada could create. But there's also a swell of pride that it could put their barrio on the map.

They are expected to give a warm welcome to Estrada, if he's in fact going to be detained at Fort Sto. Domingo as the PNP would have people believe.

If so, the ex-President is lucky to be at Fort Sto. Domingo where the majority of residents are his supporters..

"Around 70 percent," estimated Carlos Villanueva, 29, a *kagawad* of the barangay, told the INQUIRER yesterday.

Join protests

Villanueva said that people living on the eastern side, where the gates of the camp are located, would rally for Estrada.

This was confirmed by the menfolk living near the gate. "There are a lot of pro-Erap residents here in the barangay and they will support any protest action," said one of the men who was hanging out with a group in front of one of the barangay's sari-sari store. The others murmured agreement.

However, barangay captain Graciano Descartin said his constituents would stage no protest action. "Don't believe everything they tell you," he said.

Descartin pointed out that in the 1998 presidential election, it was Jose De Venecia who won in their barangay. When asked by the INQUIRER if the residents had shifted their allegiance to Estrada once he became president, Descartin said he wasn't sure.

Both Descartin and Villanueva added that most of the residents had already accepted the fact that Estrada would be living within their midst even as Villanueva was concerned about its effects on their small barrio when Estrada supporters arrive in droves.

"We are worried that there might be trouble. We might not be able to concentrate on earning a livelihood if the supporters come around," Villanueva said.

Most of the residents are jeepney drivers, families of overseas contract workers and retired members of the Armed Forces and the PNP formerly stationed inside the camp.

While some of the residents make their living raising pigs and livestock, some of the residents rely on the camp itself to make a living.

The camp was a former armory dump of the Armed Forces. When the AFP abandoned it, it was taken over by the PNP and transformed into the training school of the PNP's elite unit, the SAF.

Signs of times

One day last month, the residents were surprised when all of the SAF officers and men were pulled out of the camp and sent to another to continue their training.

"When they left, we were upset because they were our main customers," said "Aling Gloria" (not her real name) who owns a store just a few meters away from the camp's gates.

Most residents refused to give their names to the media after policemen came around to ask for the names of who had been interviewed on TV.

Sadly, Aling Gloria said that most of the men who were pulled out still owed large debts to her store. "How am I going to ask them to pay back now that they're gone?"

Yolanda (also not her real name), a chatty laundrywoman who hangs out in front of Aling Gloria's store to exchange gossip, complained she lost her customers after the pullout.

"Now I have only a few customers and that's not enough for me and my family's food expenses," said Yolanda. She said she is now looking for other sources of income. Some of the residents, the women said, also earned from sewing uniforms of the members of the SAF.

Tightened security

By last Saturday, the residents were no longer allowed to enter the camp. On Monday when news of the imminent arrest of Estrada broke out, security was tightened.

A 10 p.m. curfew was imposed. "I heard there was a shoot-to-kill order for anyone caught trying to get into the camp at night," said one resident.

Vehicles parked in front of the camp's gates were ordered to clear out.

Residents told the INQUIRER that high-ranking officials of the PNP had been visiting the camp in private cars and had been holding meetings.

The guard towers on the four corners of the camp, plus another one added in the middle of the two towers at the rear of the camp were manned by heavily armed members of the SAF.

Residents observed that foot patrols going around the camp.

Media were also kept out of the gates. Guards told the INQUIRER that permission from their superiors was needed to get in. None of the officers of the camp wanted to talk to reporters.

Surprise construction

The suspense began one day last month when a construction crew and heavy equipment began going into the camp. Earlier reports said that the construction of the jail was started when the Supreme Court rejected with finality any claims to presidential immunity by Estrada.

"At first, we thought they were digging for treasure. It turns out they were constructing that jail," said one resident. Only later after reading the papers and watching TV did they realize what the commotion was all about.

"From our reckoning, the work was finished in about 10 days. They worked only at night starting from 9 or 10 p.m. They didn't take in any local men for the work," said one resident.

One of the male residents told the INQUIRER that he knew for a fact that the new jail has a three-meter wide electrified fence around it. Aside from that, he said there was a helipad constructed right in front of the jail. "He might be flown in and not motored in as expected," one resident surmised.

‘Bishop’: Fight to stop cops from arresting Estrada

(From page A1)

serving any arrest warrant on their idol.

Perez, head of the Laban ng Masa para sa Demokrasya, said he did not care what Manila Archbishop Jaime Cardinal Sin thought of his support for Estrada.

Estrada lawyer Raymond Fortun said that while his client had not declared People Power 3 "there will be no initiative on his part to try to ask his countrymen to stop expressing their right accorded by the Constitution."

"He is willing to be arrested . . . (But) what he is asking is for the people to express support for him in line with his call for justice and fair play," the lawyer said.

Fortun stressed that Estrada had not asked his supporters to overthrow the government.

Obviously forgetting to ask the demonstrators to pray, the bishop instead called on the crowd to fight to keep the police away from Estrada's residence on Polk Street.

The demonstrators did not seem to have any qualms about heeding the bishop's call.

Tension broke yesterday when a team composed of about 20 riot policemen positioned themselves near the corner of Club Filipino Avenue and Annapolis Street.

Thinking that the riot police were part of an advanced party sent to clear the area for Estrada's arrest, the demonstrators marched toward the police personnel and confronted the team.

Sticks and stones

Carrying sticks and stones, the Estrada supporters heckled the members of the San Juan police and ordered them to leave.

They were not pacified until the police kept away from their view.

Some of the demonstrators had been drinking alcohol to pass their time at the picket lines.

The INQUIRER overheard one of the rally organizers ordering his fellow Estrada fanatics to refrain from drinking alcohol while they were in the picket line.

"*Sa mga umiinom, tigilan nyo na yan. Nakakasira kayo ng diskarte* (For those who are drinking, stop it. You are spoiling our protest)!" the organizer announced on the microphone.

At the rally, two Estrada look-alikes, one of whom used to play the former actor's double in his films, showed up.

Romeo Mago, 51, arrived at the rally wearing a polo shirt and a pair of denim pants. But his hairdo, which carried an uncanny resemblance to Estrada's, gave him away.

Stuntman

Mago said that he was a former member of the stuntmen group Young Tigers Club and that he had worked closely with Estrada in several films.

But Mago, now a taxi driver living in Quezon City, said he could no longer remember any of the titles of the Erap films he appeared in.

"Erap has never helped me personally but I will fight for him till the end nevertheless," he said.

He remembered Estrada as very strict when it came to rehearsals, but he said the former actor was very approachable outside work.

"He always wanted to get things right during the first take. But he would also sit and have a drink with us after work was done," he said.

Mago vowed to stay at the vigil until Estrada was back in Malacañang. He added that he brought his entire family along with him.

The other look-alike, Vicente Costello, is a 42-year-old vendor who came all the way from Romblon just to be counted as one of the people who would restore Estrada back in power.

Costello came to the rally wearing a red and black checkered polo with its first three buttons open. He had a wristband and did his hair like Estrada's.

He boasted that everything about his looks was natural.

"I have always looked like this ever since. I never had to exert any effort to copy Erap's look," he said, adding it was his first time to appear before the media.

In Davao City, pro-Estrada supporters warned they would replicate in Mindanao the ongoing mass action at the gates of the ousted leader's home.

Richard Burgos, convenor of the Pro-Estrada Movement Mindanao, said they planned rallies in Mindanao to express their indignation over Estrada's impending arrest.

Burgos said they were tapping various communities and organizations on the island for a coordinated mass action should Estrada be arrested.

Poor not for Erap

In Baguio City, former National Democratic Front spokesperson Satur Ocampo expressed doubts that Estrada could use the poor to shield him from arrest.

Ocampo of the Bayan Muna party list group said the poor had been divided because of the political crisis that led to the ouster of Estrada.

He said militant groups had been wooing back into their fold the poor who were abandoned when Estrada was booted out of office on Jan. 20 by People Power II.

He said recent surveys indicated that Estrada no longer had the resources to harness the 1.3 million people being organized for an "Edsa People Power III" to protect him.

Ocampo said Estrada's loyalists came from the urban poor whom he described as "*kapit sa patalim* (the desperate who would even hold on to a blade)," who believed in Estrada's "Erap Para sa Mahirap" platform.

He said a substantial number of these loyalists might be "hired supporters," who are now massing up in North Greenhills to prevent Estrada's arrest.

Bayan Muna considers the "real *masa*" as those who compose 75 to 85 percent of the country's population, said Lito Costales, chair of the National Federation of Labor Unions.

According to their definition, all minimum wage earners already fall below the established poverty line. ***With reports from Volt Contreras in Manila; Vincent Cabreza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau; and Jowel F. Canuday and Jonathan F. Ma, PDI Mindanao Bureau***

PAOCTF behind kidnaps–GMA

(From page A1)

"And now on the PAOCTF. No more *bantay-salakay* (protect-attack) cops. No more *hulidap* (arrest-holdup) operations. No more Hollywood stage-managed kidnappings," the President said, adding: "There will be no more privileged police groups, no more organizations with extraordinary powers within the police organization."

In a dialogue Monday with seven major Chinese-Filipino organizations in Binondo, Ms Macapagal warned them not to put too much trust in a group of policemen purporting to be their protector against crime syndicates. But she did not name the group then.

'White paper' intelligence

Lacson, however, said the President's charges against the PAOCTF were merely based on "white paper intelligence work" done by his enemies in the police and military.

Speaking at a media forum yesterday at the Westin Philippine Plaza Hotel, Lacson directly attributed the derogatory information to Senior Supt. Reynaldo Berroya, newly appointed chief of the Philippine National Police Intelligence Group, and Victor Corpus, head of the Intelligence Service of the Armed Forces.

"Just before I came here, I heard the President's statement accusing the PAOCTF of engaging in stage-managed kidnap-for-ransom, *hulidap* operations and some illegal activities," said Lacson, former PNP chief and now a member of the Laban ng Demokratikong Pilipino-Puwersa ng Masa senatorial slate.

"We have not engaged in such activities, and if the basis of such statements are reports coming from intelligence officers that she appointed, I'm not surprised because Mr. Berroya and Corpus are engaged in white-paper intelligence. That is the kind of intelligence that she'll be getting henceforth . . ." he said.

But Berroya tagged Lacson as having direct links with the stage-managed kidnappings, saying he and other police agencies were engaged in the "validation and collation of evidence and gathering of more evidence" to prove this.

"Actually, I'm not the only one doing this. There are other agencies of government. They might think (that I'm being) personal with Lacson here," he told reporters yesterday in Malacañang.

"It is not so. (It) just so happened (that) it's my job," he said.

The two men are known to be archenemies. Berroya has claimed that he was jailed in 1995 for the kidnapping of Taiwanese businessman Jack Chou because he was set up by people including Lacson and ousted President Joseph Estrada.

The Supreme Court overturned Berroya's conviction in 1997 on grounds that his guilt was not proven beyond reasonable doubt.

Unacceptable

The President said the criminal acts of the PAOCTF were "totally unacceptable in civil society and under a government of laws."

She said a favorite scheme of the task force involved the purported arrest of Chinese-Filipinos for illegal possession of drugs. In truth, she said, this activity was just a front for robbery.

"They even asked for a P100-million contribution from the Chinoy community to protect them from kidnapping," she said. "But it is really the members of the task force themselves who seize Chinoys. The victims are even forced to pay ransom on top of their contributions."

Ms Macapagal said she had ordered Interior Secretary Joey Lina to go after rogue policemen and "put a stop to stage-managed kidnapping, with policemen acting as actors, directors and producers."

"We will root them out, along with their partners in crime, no matter how highly placed they are," she declared adding:

"The confidence of the businessmen, particularly the Filipino-Chinese entrepreneurs and the general public itself, must be restored."

In her Monday trip to Chinatown where Lacson has been popular, the President tried to dispel the notion that the former PAOCTF head was their savior.

"The same gangs that kidnap your children sometimes also stage their rescue. How can you not be confused?" she said.

But the Chinese-Filipino groups criticized the President for appointing Berroya as intelligence chief.

Berroya said yesterday that the stand of the Chinese-Filipino groups was "very unfair."

Witnesses

Berroya said witnesses had come forward to link Lacson to many of the stage-managed kidnappings mentioned by the President.

He said new witnesses arrived before he left his office to attend the President's briefing in Malacañang.

Asked how many were these witnesses, he said it depended on the case involved. He named the cases of publicist Salvador "Bubby" Dacer, who was abducted and murdered along with driver Emmanuel Corbito in November last year, and the 1995 Kuratong Baleleng "rubout."

"Actually some of the cases involving the kidnapping for ransom of known drug lords and Chinese nationals have been filed before the Ombudsman," Berroya said.

He said these cases were filed even before he came into the picture, referring to those filed against Lacson by a former police asset, Mary Ong alias "Rosebud."

Lacson, however, said Corpus had bribed a police inspector surnamed Pone with P5 million and the relocation of his family to corroborate Ong's statements.

Berroya said the PNP had a "watch list" of police officers involved in crimes such as kidnapping for ransom. "But first, we will have to validate the information further," he said.

He also cited the alleged investments made in Jollibee Foods Corp. by TF Corp., whose directors were listed as Lacson, Caroline Jimenez, Michael Ray Aquino, Magtanggol Gatdula and James Andres B. Melad.

The information was contained in a confidential document regarding the firm's financial report as of Dec. 31, 1999.

The document was dated Jan. 21, 2000, and addressed to the directors of TF Corp. It indicated an alleged subscribed capital from "Jimenez, Lacson and Aquino" amounting to P12,049,169 and from "PAOCTF" amounting to P11.72 million.

Justice Secretary Hernando Perez said he would order an investigation on the matter.

Obstacle course

Lacson complained that the May 14 election campaign had become an "obstacle course" for him.

"But like (others) I have gone through, I'm confident that I'm going to hurdle this one," he said, adding:

"All these accusations are related to the campaign, so when I go around I always appeal to the people (to) judge me on the basis of my track record, my performance, and not the vilification campaign that's so vicious. I anticipated this, but I never expected that it's going to be this vicious, this cruel."

Lacson scoffed at the administration's wish of achieving a 13-0 victory for the People Power Coalition senatorial candidates.

"It will never happen. It has not happened in the past electoral exercises. As some people say, even Jesus Christ did not get 13-0 in His Last Supper, only 12-1," he said, pointing out that the more realistic ratio would be "7-6 either way."

But in Digos City, the Rebolusyonaryong Alyansang Makabayan-Soldiers of the Filipino People-Young Officers Union (RAM-SFP-YOU) said Lacson was financing his candidacy and that of reelectionist Sen. Gringo Honasan with dirty money.

In an open letter distributed during the rally of the LDP-PnM yesterday, the alliance said the bulk of Lacson's alleged P2-billion campaign fund came from kidnapping for ransom, smuggling and drug trafficking.

It also said part of the campaign fund came from the PNP Fund Foundation, which Lacson had allegedly used as front for money laundering during his stint as PNP chief.

According to the open letter, Lacson is funding Honasan's candidacy because of "their grand design to establish a civil-military junta."

The two, who were classmates at the Philippine Military Academy, were seen sharing Lacson's private jet bound for Mindanao.

But Kim Francis Honasan, eldest son of the senator, said the family could not understand why his father had become the object of a disinformation campaign.

"It is true that my father and Lacson were classmates and that they belong to the same party. But the association stops there," he said. ***With a report from Allan A. Nawal, PDI Mindanao Bureau***

Jinggoy, Luli: Study in contrast

(From page A1)

tional Airport when she flew to Spain last Sunday.

In contrast, San Juan Mayor Jinggoy Estrada on Monday nearly came to blows with the head of the airport security team for inspecting his baggage and that of former first lady Luisa Ejercito and Sen. Vicente Sotto III. The mayor had even called up his father, ousted President Joseph Estrada, by cellular phone to complain: "Daddy, *heto hina*-harass *kami* (we're being harassed here)."

Yesterday, the Estrada family cried harassment.

The deposed president said the security check by the Aviation Security Group (ASG) on his wife and son prior to their departure for Mindanao on board a private Falcon 10 executive jet was harassment. He said passengers of private aircraft were never subjected to such inspection.

"Those searches using metal detectors . . . these are only done on commercial flights. But this was done to them. In this case, you'd see the harassment by the present administration," he said in Filipino over dzBB.

Estrada was probably not aware that the ASG had also been routinely inspecting his baggage whenever he flew to the provinces to campaign for his senatorial candidates.

Chief Supt. Marcelo Ele Jr., ASG director, recalled that his men checked Estrada's baggage before he flew to Apalit, Pampanga, aboard a helicopter last Sunday. Ele said they also did this during the times Estrada flew using private aircraft during the past few months.

In Digos City, Ms Ejercito cried during a Puwersa ng Masa rally as she lambasted the government over the incident.

"*Masama po ang loob ko kaya hindi ako masyadong makapagsalita dahil alam naman ninyo ang mga* harassment *na ginagawa laban sa amin* (I can hardly speak because I feel terrible, you know the harassment they are doing to us)," she said in between sobs.

But President Macapagal-Arroyo denied her administration was harassing the Estradas.

"I just want to let you know that my daughter, Luli, left for Spain two nights ago. She went through the process again, had her bags inspected and I don't consider that harassment," Ms Macapagal said during a press conference yesterday.

A few months back, Luli made a good impression on the public when she refused to be given VIP treatment at the airport when she left for the United States.

Contrary to Estrada's claim that baggage check is applicable only to commercial flights, Ele said such inspections are done even on private planes and helicopters.

Under regulations of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) and the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) of the United States, the ASG is required to conduct a security check on general aviation flights or chartered flights, particularly on the passengers, cargo and aircraft, Ele said.

Ele explained that the inspection was a routine task done to guarantee the safety of all passengers.

"This is intended to ensure that the aircraft is free from explosives and firearms and to ensure that the cargoes are not dangerous items that might endanger the aircraft. It follows that the passengers, whether government official or common man, would also be subjected to checks," Ele said.

Ms Ejercito, the young Estrada and Sotto were never frisked, Ele said.

He pointed out that for the past few months, the ASG has been checking the passengers and cargo of private aircraft. Passengers of Sea Air, a charter airline operator, are even required to walk through a metal detector and submit their baggage to X-ray examination before boarding the plane, "and they don't resent that."

"Maybe Mayor Jinggoy is not used to that. He's used to VIP treatment," he added, recalling that the ASG did not inspect the baggage of the Estradas when they were still in power "out of courtesy."

Ele, however, admitted that the ASG has not fully implemented the security checks on all chartered flights due to some objections from some operators who said that this would only inconvenience their passengers.

"But slowly, we have convinced them that the service is good for them and this is not meant to harass or delay anybody," he said.

Estrada also reported yesterday that an unarmed, apparently drunk man lunged at Ms Ejercito during a campaign sortie in Zambales recently. He said the man went up the stage where his wife was and charged at her. The man was blocked by people on the stage and Ms Ejercito was not harmed. ***With reports from Allan A. Nawal, PDI Mindanao Bureau and AFP***

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GTAAA 2001
The 6th Globe Telecom Academic Achievement Awards

OVERALL AWARDEE

Jinoe M. Gavan
University of St. La Salle
Bacolod City

From his days in the St. La Salle Integrated School to the University of St. La Salle Bacolod, where he recently earned his degree in Electronics and Communications Engineering, Jinoe Morcilla Gavan has always been an achiever and a leader recognized by both superiors and peers. In fact, he received both the DOST scholarship award and the College of Engineering leadership award in college.

Outside the realm of academics, Jinoe has further exerted effort to involve himself with socio-political affairs, journalism and the student arm of the IECEP (Institute of Electronics and Communications Engineers of the Philippines).

Jinoe also continues in his drive to achieve through his interests in computer graphics, communications systems, and fine arts.

As the GTAAA goes, Jinoe feels that it is "...a great program that provides excellent exposure to graduating students. It can add to one's experience and confidence as one prepares himself for the real world."

Today, Globe Telecom affirms his view and joins the groups who have at one point or another recognized him for the achiever that he is.

Jinoe Morcilla Gavan, indeed an emerging leader within the New Economy, is the Overall Awardee for the 2001 GTAAA.

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Aileen A. Artus, Bacolod City
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We at the Ayala Group have long been strong advocates of social responsibility. With this continuing commitment, all our Ayala Group companies place a high degree of importance on community-related projects which make a difference in the lives of many Filipinos. Now on its 6th year, the GTAAA has helped many deserving students in the communities we serve and has thus earned the support and respect of our friends and partners in the private and public sectors and the academe. It is our hope that the GTAAA's continuing recognition of outstanding Filipino youths will inspire all of us to contribute our share in the difficult task of nation-building and thus secure the future of our children.

Jaime Augusto Zobel de Ayala II
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ASIAN ZONAL

Arroyo vows chess support

CHESS can expect full support from the Arroyo administration.

First Gentleman Jose Miguel 'Mike' Arroyo promised this yesterday during his keynote address in the Asian Zonal Chess Championship at the Grand Boulevard Hotel.

Arroyo, speaking in behalf of President Arroyo, said chess is a sport where most of the Filipinos can excel, citing the achievements of 16-year-old IM Mark Paragua and 14-year-old WIM Arianne Caoili.

He also hailed the organizing National Chess Federation of the Philippines for its continuing work to uplift the plight of local chess players.

"I congratulate the grandmasters and the NCFP for bringing order back to Philippine chess as we did when the country was plunged to disaster," said Arroyo, who did the ceremonial moves with chair Efraim Genuino of Pagcor.

Arroyo also asked the co-sponsoring Philippine Sports Commission to look after the needs of chess players and advised it to coordinate with the NCFP, headed by GM Eugene Torre, regarding funding and support.

TORRE

Others who graced the opening ceremony were chair Carlos Tuason of the PSC, NCFP honorary chair Mat Defensor and other officials and Princess Pascual of Pascual Laboratories.

Later, Beverly Mendoza drew first blood for the Filipinos with a 31-move victory over Ching Li of Hong Kong.

Top seed GM Utut Adianto of Indonesia and defending champion GM Thien Hai Dao of Vietnam started their title hunt in the men's division by besting separate rivals.

Adianto beat Filipino Yves Ranola in 55 moves of a Caro-Kann, while Dao dumped Cedep Kosasih in 42 moves of a Slav defense.

Other early winners were Indon GM Edhi Handoko, Vietnamese GM Anh Dung Nguyen, Bazar Hatanbaatar, Thanh Son Nguyen and Filipinos Fernie Donguines and Idelfonso Datu. Torre and fellow GMs Joey Antonio and Bong Villamayor settled for draws like Paragua.

Other games saw Vietnam's Hong Phuong Vo down Dashdondo Soyolmaa of Mongolia and Mongolia's Bayanmoth Anchimeg beat Filipino Christine Rose Mariano. Joining them on top were WGM Thanh Trang Hoang and Thi Kim Loan Tran. *Roy Luarca*

Barbosa prevails

ASEAN Under-16 Champion Oliver Barbosa ruled the 2nd edition of the Juniors Active Open held at the Grandmasters' Café in Quezon City last Monday. Barbosa, the Board 1 player of Letran high school, won over Jan Vincent Paragua, Jeffrey Daclan, Julius Joseph de Ramos, Carl Espallardo and Ariel Aton. He closed out with a draw with Arnel Aton.

Executive chess

THE SEVENTH leg of the 2001 Philippine Executive Active Chess Express unfolds on April 28 at 1 p.m. at Land Bank's Multi-Purpose Hall along Gil Puyat Avenue, Makati City. Known by its acronym Peace 2001, the yearlong eleven-leg event is designed to help keep the fervor for chess burning in the hearts of business executives and professionals.

Ultimate Challenge Series taps 4 events

A FOUR-PRONGED thrust on sports dubbed the Rexona Ultimate Challenge Series was formally launched yesterday by Unilever Phils. at the Manila Hotel.

Recognizing the need to encourage the youth to join healthy activities, Unilever decided to venture into popular events like basketball, cycling, aerobics and football.

The RUCS Basketball Games and Cage Clinics are being conducted by players from both the Metropolitan Basketball Association and the Philippine Basketball Association.

Aside from tune-up games, the MBA-powered RP Team has also been conducting cage clinics in the provinces.

PBA players, on the other hand, will be conducting campus tours nationwide.

RUCS Fiesta Bisikleta is a series of cross-country races organized by Radio Mindanao Network for both amateur and pro cyclists. Endorsed by the Philippine Amateur Cycling Association and the National Cycling Federation of the Philippines, Inc., Fiesta Bisikleta will be part of Dagupan's Pista'y Dayat festival on April 20. It has already been to Iloilo, Gen. Santos and Dumaguete.

RUCS Aerobics Marathon is under the aegis of the Philippine Army. Its first leg was recently held at Fort Bonifacio in Makati City.

Rexona will also be sponsoring the Luzon Cup of the RUCS Beach Football Open on May 5 and 6 at the Subic Freeport Zone. The event was introduced to the country five years ago through the Beach Football Association of the Philippines chaired by UP coach Mike Athab.

For upadates, visit the RUCS website at www.ultimatechallengeseries.com.

Spurs, Hornets post 2-0 lead in playoffs

SAN ANTONIO, Texas—Regular season champion San Antonio and surprising Charlotte captured lopsided victories Monday to take command of their National Basketball Association playoff matchups.

The Spurs ripped visiting Minnesota, 86-69, here while Charlotte routed host Miami, 102-76, with each winner seizing a 2-0 lead in a best-of-five first-round NBA playoff series.

Charlotte can complete a sweep of the Eastern Conference's third seed with a home triumph Friday. The Spurs can sweep out the Timberwolves, who have never won an NBA playoff series, with a road victory Saturday.

San Antonio's Tim Duncan scored 18 points while David Robinson added 16 and each man pulled down 11 rebounds. Terry Porter added 14 points and hit all three of his 3-point shots.

Minnesota set a club low for points in a playoff game and shooting, sinking only 24-of-71 attempts from the field. Guards Terrell Brandon and Anthony Peeler were a combined 3-of-17 after a 13-of-38 game one showing.

"We did a great job defensively," said Robinson. "We did a great job on the boards. They were having a tough time getting their shots."

Guba, Soquino gain 2nd round

YANNICK Guba and Janjie Soquino downed separate rivals yesterday to book second-round berths in the Head-Penn Age Group Tennis Championships at the Rizal Memorial Tennis Center.

Guba outclassed Wilbur Agawin, 6-0, 6-0, to join elder brother and boys' 18-under top seed Johan Guba in the next round.

Soquino, on the other hand, defeated Rommell Canillas, 6-2, 6-4, to advance against Lawrence Magaway, a 6-1, 6-0 winner over Jetroy Yadao, in the boys' 16-under division. Other winners were No. Julianito Jopia over Laurence Sola, 6-0, 6-2; Vyaki Sabandon over Jim Jimenea, 6-4, 6-2; Michael Basco over Elias Laron, 6-0, 6-0; and Boris John Chaves over Byron Hontiveros, 6-4, 6-0.

Earlier, Raymond Villarete downed Duma Boloto, 7-5, 6-1; Miguel Pantua beat Dovier Pilapil, 6-2, 6-3; Jaime Ochoa trounced Paul Arjay Nicolas, 6-3, 6-3; Ronoel Allan Tan outplayed Elijah Collado, 6-0, 6-2; and Bryan Dayleg downed Carlo Lingasin, 6-4, 6-1, to also gain the second round. The event is sponsored by Chris Sports, Toalson, Agfa, Red Bull and official ball Penn.

Camby hostage drama

SOUTH WINDSOR, Connecticut— Police rescued the mother and two sisters of New York Knicks center Marcus Camby at their home here Monday after a tense eight-hour morning hostage standoff.

Police said Troy Crooms of Hartford, Connecticut, held a knife to the throat of Camby's sister Monica and demanded to speak with the National Basketball Association standout when officers arrived here at 3:30 in the morning. *AFP*

Mutombo award

NEW YORK— Philadelphia center Dikembe Mutombo from the Democratic Republic of Congo was named the NBA Defensive Player of the Year here on Monday. Mutombo, the NBA's leading rebounder and fifth-best shot blocker, won the honor for the fourth time in a balloting of North American sports journalists. *AFP*

EFFORTLESS
Tom Adarme of Greenhills makes an almost effortless swing from the bunker during the opening round of the Alaxan Intervillage East tournament recently at Wack Wack. The popular golf series, started in 1991 to promote fellowship among village golfers, resumes tomorrow with the staging of the Alaxan Intervillage Makati tournament for villages in Makati and Mandaluyong.

TOP 10 MEN'S WORLD GOLF RANKINGS

1. Tiger Woods (USA) 31.86pts, 2. Phil Mickelson (USA) 13.08, 3. Ernie Els (Rsa) 10.52, 4. Lee Westwood (Eng) 9.03, 5. Colin Montgomerie (Sco) 8.74, 6. Vijay Singh (Fij) 8.34, 7. David Duval (USA) 7.73, 8. Davis Love-III (USA) 7.66, 9. Hal Sutton (USA) 6.74, 10. Darren Clarke (Nir) 6.67, 11. Jesper Parnevik (Swe) 6.44, 12. Jim Furyk (USA) 6.33, 13. Mike Weir (Can) 6.15, 14. Tom Lehman (USA) 5.94, 15. Thomas Bjorn (Den) 5.88, 16. Nick Price (Zim) 5.67, 17. Sergio Garcia (Spa) 5.56, 18. Mark Calcavecchia (USA) 5.40, 19. Michael Campbell (Nzl) 5.30, 20. Padraig Harrington (Irl) 5.03 *AFP*

Tecson clinches Asia Jr 3rd spot

NAKORN PATHOM, Thailand—The Philippines' Jenz Tecson came up with a 72-hole total of 310 to finish third in Class B in the second Asia Pacific Junior Golf Open 2001 here recently.

Tecson toured the par 72, 6,070 yard Rose Garden Golf Club with rounds of 76-78-81-75 to emerge the best Filipino finisher in the event launched last year at Wack Wack by the tournament's founding president Edgardo "Boy" Cantada.

Seventeen other Filipinos also competed in the tournament. Cantada was delegation head while his son Gerard was team coach.

Three other Filipinos also competed in the division for 13-14 years old with Emil Malansing placing 23rd, Jason Rustia 24th and Marlo Capinianes 27th.

Frederick Garcia shot 326 to settle for 19th place in Class A (15-17), Kevin Lachica finished 21st in the same division while compatriots Paolo Garcia and Freence Tecson took the next two places.

Malaysia's Ben Leong combined for 301 to top Class A while Nophakorn Suvanich of Thailand ruled Class B with 293. Both divisions were for 72 holes.

Thailand's Kiatpech Phasuk-yuet and William Sialhudin of Indonesia were the boys' champions in Classes C and D while Kevin Techakanokboon, also of Thailand, was the Class E winner.

Aside from host Thailand, the Philippines, Malaysia and Indonesia, the other countries represented were Canada, People's Republic of China, Taiwan, the United States and Great Britain.

As expected, Thailand ran away with the team championship with 881. Second was Malaysia with 908.

RP athletes' stipend upped

NATIONAL athletes are tipped to receive a P1,000 increase in their monthly allowances from the Philippine Sports Commission starting next month.

PSC chair Carlos Tuason bared the development during the induction of officers of the 435-strong Philippine Amateur Athletes Federation Inc. (Paafi) at the Ninoy Aquino Stadium Monday night.

The PSC has 758 athletes under its wings and are receiving from P2,000 to P9,500 each as monthly stipend depending on their respective classes.

Class A athletes are pocketing P6,500 a month with an additional P3,000 for meals. These are the athletes who won a gold medal in the 1999 Brunei Southeast Asian Games. *June Navarro*

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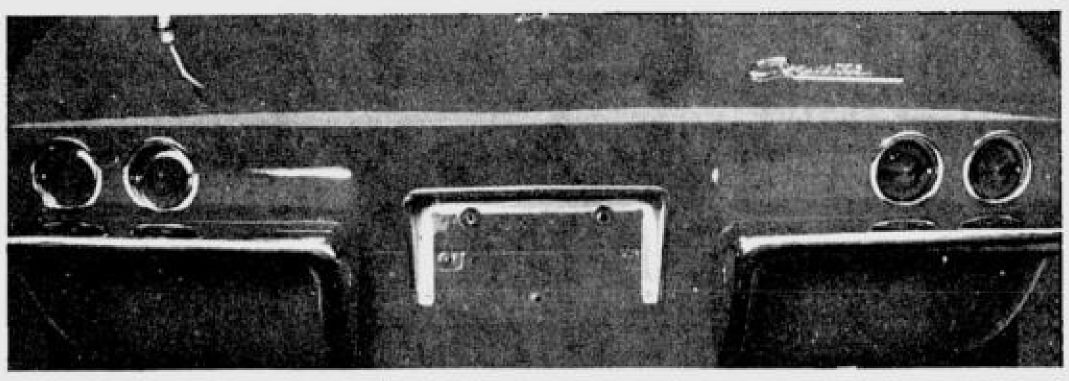

SPORTSWATCH

Hilado Men's Open

THE NEGROS Tennis Foundation, in cooperation with the Philippine Tennis Association and the Mariposa Foundation Inc., will hold the Luis Hilado Memorial Cup Men's Open in Bacolod City. A total of P100,000 in cash is at stake in the singles and doubles tournament slated April 30 to May 6 at the Negros Occidental Tennis Association tennis courts. Registration is ongoing at the Philta office (tel. 525-64-34) and at the tournament venue (tel. 034-434-6946.)

RP pugs to Thailand

THE COUNTRY's amateur boxers will have a taste of Thailand's best before they plunge into action in the Kuala Lumpur Southeast Asian Games. Boxing chief Manny Lopez bared the King's Cup slated in the first week of July in Bangkok will give them a glimpse of what local pugilists have to hurdle in the biennial sportsfest in September. "As we know, Thailand is the team to beat in the region," said Lopez. "The King's Cup is an opportunity to gauge the strength of the enemy. ''But the Amateur Boxing Association of the Philippines president revealed they would send less exposed boxers, who will serve as decoy. He added the tournament would serve as the final criteria to determine the composition of the RP boxing team.

June Navarro

Anton tops SVI leg

ZED Gulf Oil MP Turbo's Carlos Anton lived up to his billing as a "rainmeister" by winning the rain sodden fourth leg of the Production Class of the 2001 SVI-SBMA Saloon Racing Championships at the SBMA Speedway in the Subic Bay Freeport on Sunday. Finishing fourth in the morning leg, Anton grabbed the lead from perennial rival and polesitter Enzo Pastor at the start and skillfully steered his Hyundai Elantra through the slick tracks to cross the finish line toting an 18-second lead over his closest pursuer. Actor Monching Gutierrez proved that this first round win was no fluke by finishing first in rounds 3 and 4 of the SVI Challenge Cup.

Derby finals today

THREE entries registered three straight points yesterday to lead tonight's interesting four-cock finals of the NCA (National Cockers Association) 7-Cock Derby at the Araneta Coliseum. These were Thunderbird-Firefly IV of Big Dome owner Nene Araneta, a frontrunner in the current NCA Cocker of the Year race; Binangonan MSK of Manny Kho and May 29-31, June 2 Ucap International Derby of Vic Yu. Jima Clear Cut of Pampanga's popular Jingco brothers wound up solo second with 2-1/2 points.

Torre's dilemma

CLEAN LIVING

Manolo R. Iñigo

I PITY grandmaster Eugene Torre, president of the cash-strapped National Chess Federation of the Philippines.

Last time I heard, Torre and his NCFP buddies were (and still are?) looking desperately for money to fund the Asian Zonal chess championship the country is hosting this week. This is very disheartening because Torre and his friends should not have been in this tight financial fix had they only sourced out the funds early. Early enough to tap the public and private sectors to raise the huge budget of P2 million more or less and run a successful tournament.

But as Torre himself said, "We are committed to host the event. And when I think of the honor and prestige this event can bring to the country, I tend to ignore the risks or gambles on the financial aspect.''

Because of this, the NCFP has appealed to Malacañang for financial support. As of press time, I don't know what happened to their plea for help.

The Asian Zonals will select the region's two men qualifiers for the World Chess Championship. Torre, Asia's first grandmaster, will banner a well-prepared, well-traveled and disciplined Philippine team also composed of fellow GMs Joey Antonio and Bong Villamayor. In the distaff side are Beverly Mendoza, Joann Toledo and Rosela Joya.

Also in the fold are world-class Asian GMs such as Indonesia's Utut Sadianto, who owns an Elo rating of 2583 and Vietnam's Nguyen Anh Dung and Dao Thien Hai, with 2557 and 2555, respectively. Woodpushers from Mongolia, Malaysia, Hong Kong and Brunei round up the blue-ribbon field.

Because of its financial problems, chess should have a "godfather" to bankroll its activities and become self-reliant like boxing, bowling and billiards, sports disciplines which have given the country immeasurable honors without depending on the government for assistance all the time.

To illustrate, amateur boxing has the father-and-son team of former Manila Mayor Mel and Manny Lopez running the show. Through their efforts, Filipino boxers have been consistently winning medals in the Olympic Games and various other international events. Only recently, 22-year-old Violito Payla, a 5-foot-4 flyweight of Team Caltex Philippines, won the gold medal in the prestigious 7th Balado Cup in Cuba, the world's hotbed of amateur boxing.

Billiards, on the other hand, has brothers Popit and Putch Puyat spending their own money to support the Puyat Sports-Philippine team spearheaded by world champion Efren "Bata" Reyes and Francisco "Django" Bustamante. The low-key Puyats have also bankrolled "Athlete of the Millennium" Paeng Nepomuceno, the only four-time winner of the World Bowling Cup.

***

COCKER OF THE YEAR. Who will be the Cocker of the Year? With only five legs in the 15-leg NCA 7-Cock derby series and the coveted World Slasher 8-Cock Derby remaining, an exciting battle down the wire looms among five leading contenders in the prestigious race held annually by the National Cockers Association. The front-runners are Geran of engineer Gerry Fevidal, Capitan II of upcoming Alan Tan and battle-scarred Patrick Puno, PBRJ Binangonan of Rizal Gov. Ito Yñares and Boy Boy Roa, Thunderbird Firefly IV of Big Dome owner Nene Araneta, Mulawin Argem Coliseum II of Rudy Albano and Thunderbird Firefly 8 of the Firefly Group.

SPORTS

AL S. MENDOZA, Editor **EDWIN M. VILLANUEVA**, Assistant Editor

Braves subdue Astros

HOUSTON—Tom Glavine earned his ninth straight victory in Houston, overcoming a rare double error on Gold Glove center fielder Andruw Jones to help the Atlanta Braves beat the Astros, 9-7. Complete results: NL—Atlanta 9, Houston 7; Arizona 9, Florida 0; Philadelphia 5, San Diego 3; AL—No games scheduled. *AP*

SPORTS ON TV

COMPILED BY LORENZO MANGUIAT

BASKETBALL: NBA Playoffs, First Round – Indiana vs Philadelphia, Game 2 at 8 a.m. (r – 8 p.m.), Dallas vs Utah, Game 2 at 10:30 a.m. (r- 10:30 p.m.) on ESPN
TENNIS: ATP Tennis Show at 1:30 p.m. (r) on ESPN
WTA Bausch & Lomb Championships Finals at 2 p.m. (r) on Star Sports
GOLF: PGA Shell Houston Open, Third Round at 8 a.m. (r) on Star Sports
WRESTLING: WCW Worldwide at 3:30 p.m. (r- 10 p.m.) on Star Sports
BASEBALL: Baseball Max at 1 p.m. on ESPN

ALL-FILIPINO SEMIS

SMB battles Pop Cola; Shell takes on Ginebra

UICHICO

REYES

RONQUILLO

CAIDIC

GAMES TODAY (Philsports)
5:30 p.m.—Pop Cola vs SMB
7:30 p.m.—Shell vs Ginebra

THE MUCH-AWAITED semifinals of the PBA All-Filipino Cup will start today amid expectations of another blockbuster series reminiscent of the just-ended quarterfinals at Philsports.

Pop Cola takes on San Miguel Beer at 5:30 p.m. and Shell Velocity battles Barangay Ginebra at 7:30 p.m., kicking of their best-of-five series that should again draw the crowds from across the nation.

The winners will advance in the best-of-seven championship series.

It's a return bout between the Gin Kings and the Turbochargers. In 1999, Shell swept Ginebra en route to winning the crown by beating Tanduay Gold in the title playoffs.

In that series, Ginebra came from a sensational quarterfinal upset of Mobiline, the elimination topnotcher. Ginebra sort of repeated history this year by shooting down favored twice-to-beat Purefoods last week.

"I want that to serve as our motivation," said Ginebra coach Allan Caidic. "Just because we made the semis doesn't mean we have to stop there. That's what happened to us two years ago. We were so happy to have made the semis that we forgot to prepare for Shell. We can't afford to do that again."

Shell topped the eliminations under Perry Ronquillo, the same coach who steered the Turbochargers past the Gin Kings in 1999.

The Beermen are raring to finally win the only title that eluded them the past two years, when they won four of the last six conferences.

But the Pop Cola Panthers are primed to make their first semifinal stint in three years. Coach Chot Reyes is obsessed with that because of his self-imposed challenge to bring his team to new heights in the pre-season run-up.

Reyes augmented his vision with a massive buildup of Pop Cola's lineup, snaring Johnny Abarrientos and Poch Juinio from Alaska in a deal that jolted the league. Reyes also recruited the mercurial Nelson Asaytono, a former mainstay of SMB.

"All we need now is to focus our energy and not to get too excited over it," said Reyes of his star-studded roster.

But the Beermen have the edge in experience, having been in this situation many times before.

"We have enough motivation on our side, we just need to put this into action," said SMB coach Jong Uichico.

The semifinals can extend up to May 6 if the series goes the full route.

'Bae Anday'

SPECTATOR

Al S. Mendoza

IF YOU THINK the quarterfinal series has given you limitless thrills already, think again, fellas. The semifinals, set to begin today, may yet produce stunts never seen before.

Indeed, the Philippine Basketball Association, like wine, has continued to "taste sweeter and sweeter" with the passing of time.

Historically, a series levels up everything. Statistics matter not much. No team can exactly lay claim to an outright advantage over another.

Suddenly, what becomes material is the present. The past is but an asterisk to a team's slum book.

So, will San Miguel Beer's experience prevail against the rebuilt lineup of Pop Cola? Will Shell's seemingly scientific system derail the patented razzle-dazzle style of Ginebra San Miguel?

Too tough to call.

Suffice it to say that no team will have a so-called walk in the park. All four teams are so balanced, well-coached, that games could produce cliffhangers all the way.

When it's over, there will be no losers. The winners merely survive.

■

Hermie Rivera called to say it was Buster Douglas and not Buster Mathis who upset Mike Tyson to win the world heavyweight boxing crown a while back. Sorry for the slip. Thank you, buddy. Talagang "boxing scholar" ka nga as my podner Recah Trinidad loves to call you.

■

Bae Anday (Tengasantos), God's chief instrument in helping my mother deliver me to this world some decades ago, is dead. She was 99. Her body lies at her Quezon Street residence in Mangatarem, Pangasinan. Interment is on Saturday, April 29. *Bae* Anday's only son, the Honolulu-based Pino who became one of my early teachers in life (still is), is coming home on Thursday.

Bae Anday loved to tell me that minutes after I was born, I fell out of bed.

"Miraculously, you were not hurt," she said of the accident. "Even more miraculous was you did not cry. After I had picked you up, I saw yet another miracle: I didn't notice that a slipper was with you when I laid you beside your mother. It was your mother's slipper."

Bae Anday was like my second mother. When I was not yet 10 and I became very sick, *Bae* Anday and her husband, *Laki* Usyong, took me to a hospital in Dagupan City. That deed saved my life. The couple had done wonders to me that were simply too many to mention here. And yet, we were not related. Just plain neighbors.

Favor, please? Please pray for the eternal repose of their souls.

Welcoat, PharmaQuick win

BY DENNIS EROA

GAMES TOMORROW: (Makati Coliseum)
3:30 p.m.—Osaka Iridology vs Hapee Toothpaste
5:30 p.m.—Shark Energy Drink vs GIV Beauty Soap

DEFENDING champion Welcoat Paints used a crippling zone defense to thwart Montaña Pawnshop, 58-54, yesterday for its first back-to-back victory in the PBL Chairman's Cup at the Makati Coliseum.

The Paintmasters trailed by eight at the half, 21-29, but gained the lift when they suddenly shifted from man-to-man to zone at the start of the third quarter as twin towers Yancy de Ocampo and Derick Canlas patrolled the shaded lane with authority, while Ren Ren Ritualo, Celino Cruz and Cali Orfrecio tormented Montaña's shooters.

It was a fitting follow-up to the Paintmasters' 78-74 victory over GIV Beauty Soap on April 19. They are now sporting a 3-3 win-loss card, same record of PharmaQuick which drubbed Hapee Toothpaste, 65-59, in the other game.

Shark Energy Drink leads the pack with an impressive 6-0 slate.

The Jewels crumbled easily when swingman Aris Dimaunahan, Jacques Gottenbos and Ernest Medina failed to make their outside shots. Pointguard Orly Torrente also failed to preside over the Jewels' transition game.

By the end of the third period, the Paintmasters were already ahead by one, 37-36, a lead they padded to 10, 52-42, on Ritualo's three-pointer.

The scores:

WELCOAT 58—Ritualo 14, De Ocampo 10, Manalo 8, Cruz 7, Orfrecio 7, Encarnacion 6, Canlas 4, Tan 2, Tolentino 0, Carmona 0, Mamaclay 0.

MONTAñA 54—Dimaunahan 14, David 11, Gottenbos 10, Lao 9, Torrente 6, Latoreno 2, Medina 1, Zamora 1.

Quarters:9-6,29-21,36-37,58-54

PHARMAQUICK 65—Avenido 18, Lanete 17, Dacla 13, Lapinid 7, Allad 6, Romero 2, Lim 2, Jabar 0, Canoneo 0, Velez 0.

HAPEE 59—Gelig 12, Saquilayan 9, Dy 8, Espiritu 7, Bajar 6, Baguio 6, Mercado 6, Sison 3, Maloloy-on 2, Yuson 0, Lopez 0, Binua 0.

Quarters:15-15,27-23,46-38,65-59.

Subic dive meet slated May 12

BIGGER prizes and great adventure await diving enthusiasts in the 5th Subic Dive Fiesta set for May 12 at the Subic Bay Aqua Sports Center along Waterfront Road,.Subic Freeport.

A trip to Palau courtesy of Continental Micronesia and a Verde Island resort package are just among the prizes for the winners of this event sponsored by Continental Micronesia, Gulf Oils, SBMA Freeport Recreation Committee, Subic Bay Aqua Sports and Verede Island Resorts.

Also at stake is the coveted Diver of the Year award which will be given to the diver who accumulates the highest points in three events—the ditch and don underwater medley, underwater treasure hunt and the blindfold equipment assembly.

An added attraction to the awards night part of the Subic Dive Fiesta is the Slimmers' World International Search of Great Bikini Bodies Competition, 9 p.m., also at the beach front of the Subic Bay Aqua Sports.

Interested parties may call Xtreme Worx at 853,1631 or 0917-8992363 and Cecille at 047-2526097.

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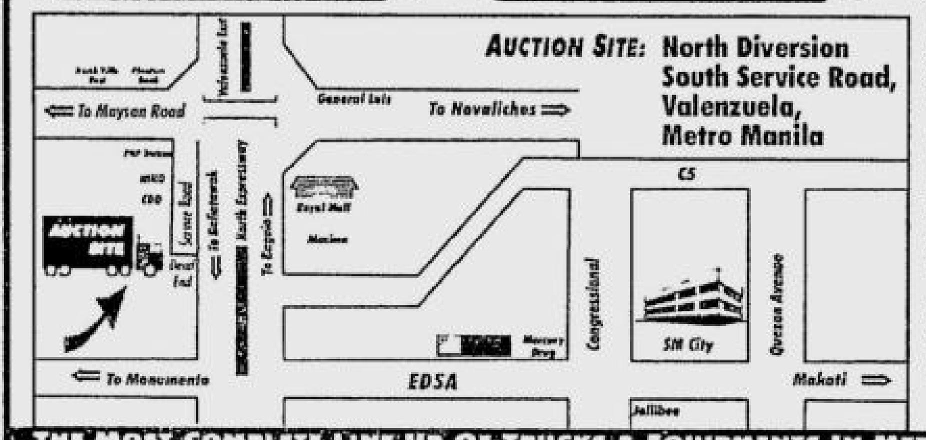

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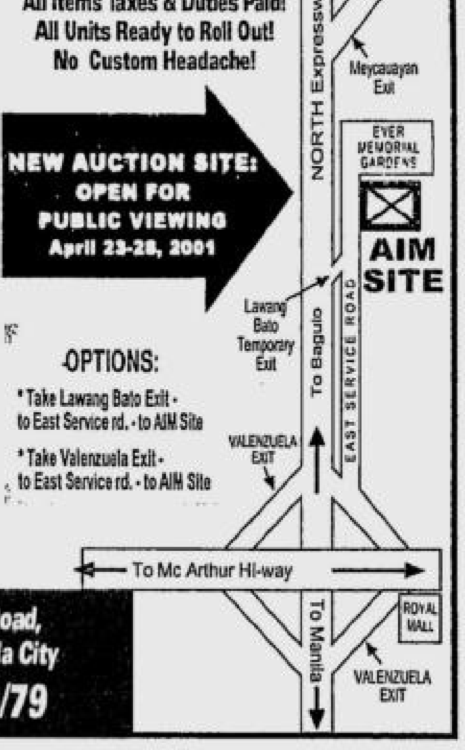

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'Very dangerous' to live in Erap relocation site, says NHA chief A27

METRO

LOUIE C. CAMINO, Editor

Third beheading suspect falls; two more hunted

BY PHILIP C. TUBEZA

THE CENTRAL Police District is hot on the trail of two men following the arrest of a third prime suspect in the beheading of three young men in Quezon City last week.

Police arrested Romeo Aguado, alias Boy Hapon, 31, a driver of 31 Luzon Avenue, Barangay Culiat, Quezon City, late Monday afternoon, a police source told the Inquirer.

Aguado, along with PO2 Mario Morales and PO3 Dennis Blasco, allegedly beheaded the three young men inside a safehouse in Quezon City.

Aguado was the civilian charged with Morales and Blasco before the Quezon City Prosecutor's Office for double murder and attempted murder.

The source said Aguado reportedly spilled the beans to investigators and linked two more civilians to the murders.

"Boy Hapon said the two men were also involved in the murders," the source said yesterday afternoon. "We're now hunting them down."

Police yesterday failed to find the heads of Kenny W. Azana, Rolando Popanes, and a still unidentified victim tagged only as Badjao, said Senior Insp. Rudy Jaraza, head of the homicide section of the Central Police District-Criminal Investigation Unit.

The police searched for the missing heads in the Barangay Silangan part of the San Mateo River in Quezon City.

"We received information that the suspects placed the heads in a plastic bag and threw the bag in that river," Jaraza said. "We looked for the heads the whole day but darkness fell and we still did not find them."

He said CPD frogmen would continue the search for the heads today.

Besides Aguado, Morales and Blasco, the police also included several "John Does" in the charge sheet.

The Inquirer earlier learned that police were investigating eight lawmen and three civilians for their alleged involvement in the case.

The source said police are not yet sure of the motive behind the gruesome killings, despite the filing of charges against the three suspects on Sunday night.

The source, also an investigator, said they are looking into the possibility that two of the beheaded victims, who were allegedly involved in cell phone robberies in Tandang Sora, "worked for the police suspects."

"The (police) suspects might have decided to 'silence' the victims after a member of their ring was arrested," the source said.

The three young men were probably killed to send "a message to other gang members to keep their mouths shut," the source added.

Another angle the police are looking into is that a member of the gang might have snatched the cell phone of a relative of one of the suspected lawmen and that the suspects rounded up the victims to find out who did it.

A mute parking attendant, the lone witness to the beheadings, claimed the victims were being made to confess to something when he last saw them alive.

Azana, Popanes and the third victim were found headless near the Cresta Verde Subdivision in Barangay Sta. Monica, Novaliches, Quezon City on April 16.

4th Bay accident victim found

BY JEROME ANING

THE BODY of a 4-year-old boy who drowned during a boat accident last Sunday was found yesterday morning floating in Manila Bay near the Coconut Palace at the Cultural Center of the Philippines Complex in Pasay City.

RJ Mendoza, of 1273 Interior 24, San Andres Street in Malate, Manila, was the fourth victim to be found by the Coast Guard, police said.

The body was retrieved at about 8:30 a.m. yesterday.

Zorayda Aguilar, 44, identified the body as her grandson, who was still clad in white shorts, according to SPO3 Ernesto Jose Jr.

Mendoza was on a leisure trip with his relatives on board a boat in the bay area at the back of the United States Embassy on Roxas Boulevard in Ermita when big waves hit the vessel, causing it to capsize and sink.

The body was taken to the Lourdes Funeral Homes in Pasay for autopsy.

4TH BAY/ A26

Policeman loses gun, phone to snatchers

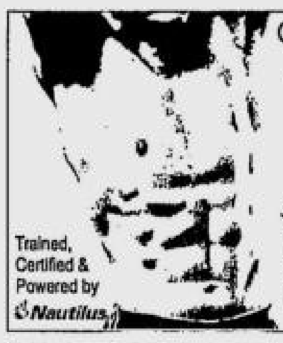
A MARIKINA policeman lost his cellular phone as well as his service firearm to robbers in Quezon City Monday night.

PO2 Herbert Baylon of the Marikina police said two men took his cell phone from him while he was on board a jeep along Commonwealth Avenue, according to investigator PO1 Darwin Feria of the Batasan Hills police station.

Baylon lost his .9-mm gun while he was running after the suspects, Feria added.

Baylon told investigators that the two men boarded

POLICEMAN/ A26



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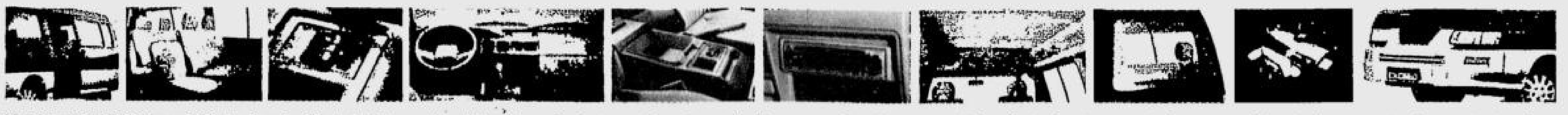

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Sin asks Vatican to split city in 3

By Norman Bordadora

CARDINAL Sin has asked the Vatican to divide the Manila archdiocese and create at least three religious territories, which would mean reduced jurisdiction for the influential cardinal.

Under the proposal, the new dioceses would be independent of Sin's authority as archbishop of Manila.

Manila Auxiliary Bishop Teodoro Buhain denied a news report that it was the Vatican that ordered the "cutting up" of the Manila archdiocese to clip Sin's "powers." Sin, the report had said, was wielding too much political influence in the Philippines.

"To say that the Vatican ordered the cutting up of the Archdiocese is not true," Buhain told the Inquirer.

The normal procedure, he said, was for an archdiocese to ask for a division and it was up to the Vatican to consider the request.

"The Manila Archdiocese, meaning the Cardinal, had submitted to the Vatican a formal proposal that would divide the Archdiocese into six jurisdictions, that is, the Manila Archdiocese itself and five dioceses," Buhain said.

Diminished authority

Buhain admitted that Sin would have diminished authority once the archdiocese was divided because the bishops of the new jurisdictions would no longer be answerable to the Cardinal.

But he refused to comment on the political implications of Sin's reduced powers.

"One can look at (the proposal) any way he wants," he said.

Another high-ranking official of the Manila archdiocese said the powers of the Cardinal would be delegated to the other bishops of the new dioceses.

One reason reportedly being used to back up the proposal to divide the archdiocese was the Cardinal's old age and failing health. Sin turns 73 on Aug. 31 and he has a kidney ailment.

Another reason, which may be more acceptable to the Catholic religious, is the growing number of the flock in the archdiocese.

Buhain said that under the proposal, there would be five new religious territories aside from the Manila archdiocese.

He, however, was able to mention only three of the proposed territories: the Manila archdiocese (covering Manila, Pasay City, Mandaluyong City, Makati City and San Juan), Caloocan (covering Caloocan-south, Malabon and Navotas) and Novaliches (covering Caloocan-north).

"Each diocese would be independent of the archdiocese," Buhain said.

He explained that while several dioceses are grouped around an archdiocese, the jurisdictions and the bishops in them could act independently from each other.

Not new

Buhain, the bishop of the Minor Basilica of Quiapo, said the proposal is not new. He said that in 1984, the Cardinal sent a similar proposal to Rome that asked for the breaking off of the Caloocan area from the Manila archdiocese.

Buhain could not give an approximate time when the Vatican might approve, or reject, Sin's new proposal.

"We have to realize that Rome is eternal. We do not know when and how it would act (on the proposal)," Buhain said.

Sources at the Manila Archdiocese said the proposal to divide the archdiocese has already been forwarded to the Apostolic Nuncio, Archbishop Antonio Franco.

SIN

SHABU MEN
National Bureau of Investigation Director Reynaldo Wycoco on Monday presented to media Feliciano Alli Jr. and Aries Pajuyo who he said were arrested while selling P4 million worth of shabu, allegedly together with the woman mayor and a mayoral candidate of two Lanao del Sur towns. RANDY HORMILLOSA

Solon loses files to thieves

By Philip C. Tubeza

THIEVES broke into the office of Manila Rep. Harry Angping at Room 512 in the Northwing Building of the Batasan Complex on Constitutional Hills in Quezon City.

But they took only a diskette and nothing else of value.

Police, however, said the diskette contained "important files" regarding Angping's reelection bid.

Angping's office is the fourth office to be broken into in Congress since the election period started, said investigator PO3 June Mortel, of the Central Police District-Criminal Investigation Unit.

He said the theft happened during the weekend while no one from Angping's staff was present at the office.

The room was locked from 5 p.m. on April 20 to 9:20 a.m. on April 23, when the break-in was discovered, Mortel said.

But there was no sign of forcible entry. Mortel said the door, which did not have a double lock, could have been opened with only a plastic card, such as a laminated I.D. or credit card.

He said the thief apparently knew where the diskette was kept because the room and the drawer from where it was taken were not ransacked.

Members of Angping's staff did not say anything specific about the diskette's contents. They only told investigators that it contained "important files" on Angping's campaign, said Mortel.

He said authorities are now trying to find out if the thief left any fingerprint inside the office.

"This is said to be the fourth break-in since the campaign started but this is the first time that something was reported missing," Mortel added.

Two drug suspects robbed 7-11 in Intramuros

TWO men who are believed to be drug dependents robbed a 7-Eleven convenience store in Intramuros, Manila Monday morning, taking about P20,000.

The suspects, who were armed with a single knife, barged into the store at the corner of Victoria and Solano streets around 8 a.m. Monday, said SPO4 Boy Aspeli of the Western Police District's theft and robbery section.

Store manager Nancy Ignacio, 34, and supervisor Blas Romano, 30, were counting the previous day's earnings in the store's office when the heist took place, police said.

WPD investigators said the two men locked up Romano in the comfort room and warned Ignacio not to leave the office or she would be killed.

After taking the store's money, the two men fled, police said.

SPO4 Aspeli said Romano and Ignacio came out of the office only after making sure that the suspects were gone. They then contacted the police.

The two employees said they were alone in the store because the store recently laid off some workers. Police said the security guard supposedly assigned for the morning had not yet arrived.

Another pair of suspected drug addicts are behind bars after driving away with a stainless pick-up in Balut, Tondo Saturday night and hitting a businessman as they tried to escape at dawn.

Police identified the suspects as Madin Dalampines, 30, and Marie Perez, 21, both residents of 2031 Elias St., Sampaloc, Manila. The businessman, Danilo Camara, 51, suffered leg injuries and was brought to a hospital. *Jerome Aning, with a report from JP Andaquig*

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Wednesday, April 25, 2001
St. Mark, Evangelist

1st Reading: 1 P 5:5-14 **Gospel: Mk 16:15-20**

Jesus told his disciples, "Go out to the whole world and proclaim the Good News to all creation. The one who believes and is baptized will be saved; the one who refuses to believe will be condemned. Signs like these will accompany those who have believed: in my Name they will cast out demons and speak new languages; they will pick up snakes and, if they drink anything poisonous, they will be unharmed. They will lay their hands on the sick and they will be healed."

So then, after speaking to them, the Lord Jesus was taken up into heaven and took his place at the right hand of God. The Eleven went forth and preached everywhere, while the Lord worked with them and confirmed the message by the signs, which accompanied them.

Commentary

What a big contrast! After being commissioned to proclaim the good news to all creation, the Eleven went forth and preached everywhere. Before this, however, we see them sorrowful, fearful, disheartened, and incredulous. But once they opened themselves up to the living presence of the Risen Lord, things changed. They realized that they were not all alone in the task. The Lord worked with them. Do we also see him working in, with, and through us despite our unworthiness? The more we ought to be grateful, by being committed to our mission in life.

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Driver drowns

FROGMEN on Sunday recovered the body of pedicab driver Abelardo B. Cornejo 15 hours after he drowned in an excavation site in a vacant lot owned by ABS-CBN.

Cornejo, 38, of 42 Scout Borromeo, Barangay South Triangle, drowned late Saturday afternoon in the vacant lot at the corner of Sgt. Esguerra and Scout Borromeo streets in Barangay South Triangle, said desk officer PO1 Rommel Merino of the Kamuning police station.

The victim's body was recovered by Coast Guard divers in the pit which is 1,000 square meters wide and six meters deep, Merino added.

Security guard Roque Entridicho told police he saw Cornejo in the water-filled hole around 5:30 p.m. Saturday.

The guard approached the hole but did not see Cornejo. He dived in to rescue him but failed. *Philip C. Tubeza, Sharon C. Jaylo*

SUPREME COURT DOCTRINES

REMEDIAL LAW (CIVIL PROCEDURE)—Cause of action—A cause of action is an act or omission of one party in violation of the legal right or rights of another. The elements of a cause or action are: (1) a right in favor of the plaintiff by whatever means and under whatever law it arises or is created; (2) an obligation on the part of the named defendant to respect or not to violate such right; and (3) an act or omission on the part of such defendant in violation of the right of the plaintiff or constituting a breach of the obligations of the defendant to the plaintiff for which the latter may maintain an action for recovery of damages. [Citations omitted.] [Resolution, Justice Kapunan, First Division, Centeno v. Centeno, G.R. No. 140825, October 13, 2000].

Digest by R.B. Vera

The unlamented Prof. Lennox Lewis

BARE EYE

Recah Trinidad

LENNOX Lewis must've thought the boxing world would grieve his demolition and dethronement. He was in for a lot of disappointment.

The fallen former world heavyweight boxing king also wanted to be ranked among the likes of Joe Louis and Muhammad Ali. He was found grossly lacking in merit.

Maybe Lewis also wanted a eulogy to follow his cold-blooded exit.

Instead, the end of his boring reign as heavyweight king went unlamented.

So he got caught with a surprising monster right blow. And that was it.

Lewis can be expected to mouth that line again and again in his frantic bid for a rematch. He was trying to say the other guy just became lucky.

What became clear, though, was that Mr. Lewis, who had fancied himself to be a professor of boxing, suffered from a severe case of superiority complex.

* * *

Lewis had been made to believe there was no heavyweight fighter in the world today who could beat him.

If there was no grieving over the lost crown, Lewis only had himself to blame.

In fact, his handlers, headed by trainer Emmanuel Steward, have been selling the idea that the outsized, fast-tiring Briton was doing everything right until he got pole-axed to the jaw in the fifth.

Of course, Lewis was not doing things right.

Steward was saying his man fought a great fight. And that Lewis just had the misfortune of being caught with a tremendous shot.

"This is what happens in heavyweight boxing," Lewis has been saying. "I got caught with a good shot."

No, replied the venerable Dave Anderson of the New York Times, "Lewis got caught with a bad case of overconfidence."

* * *

Recalls Mr. Anderson: "Shortly before the Botha fight in London last summer, Lewis talked about how he was 'head and shoulders above everyone else' in the heavyweight division. He spoke of how Muhammad Ali and Joe Louis had 'reigned in the same way' and that he deserved to be up there with Ali and Louis. Instead, Lewis, who has never been more than the best of a bad lot of heavyweights, deserves to be down there with Mike Tyson (who was stopped by Buster Douglas in Tokyo in 1990) in the quicksand of overconfidence."

For his part, the authoritative Ed Schuyler of the Associated Press flashed back to Lewis' only previous knockout loss to Oliver McCall in 1994:

"Lewis, who was dropped with a right to the head in the second round, has said he learned a lesson that night. He apparently forgot, maybe he was blinded by the Hollywood stars." (Lewis, who was shooting a movie in Hollywood, went to Africa only two weeks before the fight.)

* * *

It's clear Lewis has not been getting what he wrongly feels he deserved: accolades and rave farewells.

Of course, the reviewers of his unlamented reign may have also been kinder to the fallen professor of boxing.

Because, to be frank about it, Lewis suffered that demolition due to a crippling disease, an incurable ailment they call loss of heart.

So his legs started to betray him after these were visited and dominated by fatigue starting the fifth round.

He panted and had started to blow as early as the third round.

But if Lewis had, say, managed to summon enough guts, he could have saved himself from that shameful defeat.

Instead, he allowed himself to be rushed and bullied. He kept backpedalling when he could have met his foe.

* * *

All the while, Hasim Rahman was always there eagerly waiting to be informed.

Rahman was quick to smell that Lewis was not only fading fast. He was slowly cracking up inside.

Rahman even taunted Lewis, touching and testing his belly with an outstretched arm. You don't do this to a big champ, but Lewis just would not mix it up.

So, after Lewis retreated, dropped his guard and failed to put up his left arm to amply shield his jaw, Rahman jumped in, threw that mighty right and hit the jackpot.

Looking back, you could feel Lewis was already on shaky legs when the key blow came. And that deplorable condition was not caused solely by fatigue.

This was the part of the fight when courage had visibly deserted him.

Lewis was pawing and no longer confronting the enemy. His guts had betrayed him.

You can have skills, confidence, and a full load of superiority.

Unfortunately for Prof. Lewis, he did not happen to be an authority on heart and courage inside the fight ring. Very few people bother to grieve the fall of gutless champs.

₱42B needed to end Metro floods–DPWH

SOME P42 billion is needed to permanently spare Metro Manila from floods during the monsoon months, but this year's budget for flood control projects in the metropolis is P1.2 billion, or 3 percent of the needed amount, according to the Department of Public Works and Highways.

Despite the apparent shortfall in funding, the DPWH said the P1.2 billion will go a long way in easing Metro Manila's seasonal floods.

In the master plan study for Metro Manila's flood control and drainage, the estimated cost of implementing the project was P21.4 billion.

But since the study's completion in 1998, the estimated cost of implementing the project has ballooned to P42 billion, largely due to the need to rehabilitate Metro Manila's aging and silted canals and to relocate 22,000 families living along creeks, the DPWH said.

An estimated P2.86 billion is needed to relocate 22,000 families living on the banks of natural waterways while P10.8 billion is needed to build more "internal drainage systems," the DPWH said.

But for this year, the budget for flood control is P1.185 billion, of which P179 million is for the repair and maintenance of Metro Manila's maze of canals and pumps and the dredging of creeks, a report by the DPWH-NCR office said.

The bulk of the budget is earmarked for "foreign-assisted" projects worth P654 million and P352 million worth of "locally funded projects," mostly consisting of projects in the Manggahan anti-flood system and in Pasig River and its tributaries.

Public Works Secretary Simeon Datumanong has ordered his personnel to take advantage of the summer season to declog drainage and canals of silt, trash and other man-made blockages.

Metro Manila's open waterways have become dumping places of household waste, largely due to poor garbage collection. Datumanong said that because of poor collection, only half of the metropolis' 6,000 tons of daily garbage are disposed correctly.

Compounding this is the fact that Manila and other cities and towns rest on low-lying areas, where flood is triggered by simultaneous heavy rains and high tide, which is the case in Malabon and Navotas.

But Datumanong said "no amount of flood control facilities will work if residents will use canals and creeks as their garbage receptacles.

"Flood-mitigation measures will only be effective if the people will cooperate," he said.

"Let us not use the lack of funds or the delay in their release as an excuse not to initiate projects," he said. "Let us use whatever resources we have in our hands."

Policeman loses gun . . .

(From page A25)

the jeep near the Manggahan market around 10 p.m. Monday.

He said he was using his phone to send text messages to someone when one of the two men sat beside him. A few minutes after the jeep passed the Manggahan market, the man beside him grabbed his cell phone.

The two men then jumped out of the jeep and fled toward a dark alley. Baylon ran after them, Feria said.

The policeman even fired a warning shot in the air but the suspects continued running straight into the dark alley, Feria said.

Baylon also ran into the alley, but someone hit him on the head from behind with a hard object, Feria said. Baylon said that luckily, the person who left him unconscious did not do anything else besides taking his gun.

Philip C. Tubeza

Jubilee

ST. JAMES Academy in Malabon, Metro Manila is celebrating its 75 anniversary this year.

In preparation for the celebration later this year, all alumni of SJA Malabon, from 1926 to 2001, are invited to the general assembly on Sunday, April 29, 2001, in the school's Audio-Visual Center.

Registration starts at 2 p.m.

Agenda will include the election of new officers of the SJA Alumni Association Inc., plans for a grand reunion and for the celebration of the diamond jubilee later this year.

St. James at 75 is one of the oldest schools established by the Maryknoll Sisters in the country. The school is now run by the Dominican Sisters.

For details, call Lina Santos, 281-4237; Esperanza Naval-Prim, 281-0929 or 282-6236; Connie Francisco-Lazaro, 281-9960 or 0919-3613874; Mell Navarro, 0917-9106116; Chona Cruz-Mallari, 0917-8447808; Jojo Villaflor, 0919-3448392; or Rochelle Valle, 283-3696 or 0917-4862758.

4th Bay . . .

(From page A25)

RJ's mother Annaliza, 29, and his brother Ernesto Greg, 3, were among the six injured in the accident. They were taken to the Ospital ng Maynila for treatment.

The boy's family did not report him missing, earlier thinking that he was in the care of their relatives after the accident.

PCGG frogmen earlier retrieved three bodies from the bay.

They were identified as siblings Jhelyn Villafuerte, 2; Jason, 10; and Jonathan, 12, all residents of 1235 Anak Bayan Street in Paco. The three are all cousins of RJ.

Survivors claimed that a Canadian battleship on its way to the Manila Harbor created the waves that caused the boat to capsize. Investigators are also looking at this possibility. ***With reports from Myla Torres and JP Andaquig***

'Very dangerous' to live in Erap relocation site, says NHA chief

By Christian Esguerra

THEY want to save Joseph Estrada from harm, but they themselves are hardly safe in the dwellings that Estrada had built for them.

According to a report by a National Housing Authority task force, squatter families occupying the unfinished medium-rise apartments at the San Juan resettlement area in Taytay, Rizal, are at risk.

The apartments are "unstable and not ready for occupancy," said Mariano Raner III, who headed the task force.

"It's very dangerous to live there," said Edgardo Pamintuan, the NHA general manager.

"The structures should not be utilized at this point," he said.

With the buildings in "various stages of completion", the NHA is concerned that some of them might collapse.

The apartments are part of the planned 52-building complex that Estrada wanted built for squatter families from San Juan, the ex-movie actor's political base.

The NHA report showed that only five of the 11 buildings that were built have been completed, comprising 190 housing units, each measuring 27.9 square meters.

The units approximate the dimensions of a container van, their framing built of steel and their sidings of "hardiflex" (concrete plywood).

The six unfinished buildings lack doors, windows, roofs, toilets, and water and electricity supply. Four of these unfinished buildings have been taken over by 16 families that evacuated from the nearby Sitio Arienda last December, Raner said.

Two other unfinished apartments, comprising 76 units, are occupied by former San Juan residents who use illegal power connections or "jumpers," he added.

There used to be a water supply system consisting of overhead tanks and a deep well, but the water in the area is no longer potable because of "saltwater intrusion," the report showed.

Residents decided to abandon the water system that was costing them P15,000 a month in electricity fees.

Water is being delivered from Antipolo at P5 per container.

Raner said the task force had detected "no traces of construction activity to complete the apartments, which were supposed to have been the showcase of Estrada's resettlement project.

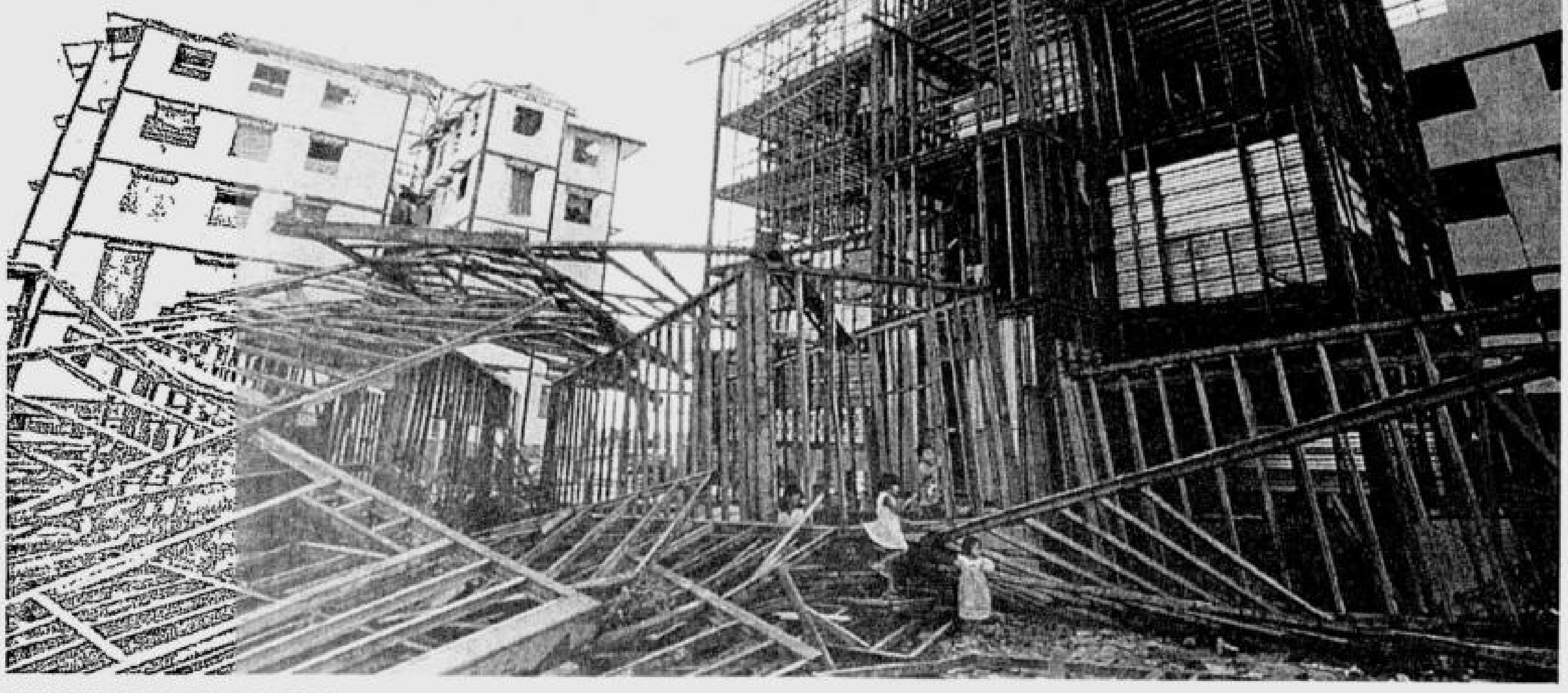
San Juan Mayor Jinggoy Estrada earlier blamed the new Macapagal administration for the project's unfinished state. He said the government had blocked the release of a P100 million check to finance its completion.

The NHA has denied the allegations, saying the money had been released and that the San Juan local government had encashed the check.

Last week, Pamintuan ordered the San Juan municipal government, the sponsor of the P468-million project, to submit a report on its status.

On Monday, the San Juan government submitted copies of letters from the contractor—the consortium of Bahay Para Sa Kinabukasan, Inc. and Pentagold Construction Corporation —to Mayor Estrada dated Nov. 10 and 22, 2000 and a project accomplishment report as of Oct. 23, 2000.

In the letters, the company's president, Hanson G. So, requested Mayor Estrada to release P104,549,566 to ensure "a smoother flow" in the construction.



'UNSTABLE, NOT READY for occupancy' is how an NHA task force report describes the relocation area in Taytay, Rizal. EDWIN BACASMAS

STREET LIFE
Nothing much separates the two little boys from the begging man they're gawking at on a seedy part of the heart of Manila, except perhaps the latter's physical disability. Both the man and the boys spend most of their time on the squalid streets. ERIK ARAZAS

Mechanic drowns in MWSS pool

ARNOLD J. Aguipo decided to beat the summer heat on Monday and dived headfirst into a swimming pool that was only three feet deep.

He cracked his skull and died, police said.

Aguipo, 37, a mechanic of the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System, and Autopio Arca and Angel Panadero of the Manila Water Company, were supposed to remove the water from a seven feet deep swimming pool at the MWSS Balara Filter Compound in Diliman on Monday, Tabuena said.

They were supposed to start work at about 2 p.m. and finish by 10 p.m.

But at 8:46 p.m., Aguipo, of 93 Block 5 Zone C UP Campus, Diliman, Quezon City, decided to take a dip in another swimming pool which was only three feet deep and he invited Arca and Panadero to join him, Tabuena said.

When the two said they would not join Aguipo, the latter decided to dive in the shallow pool. After Aguipo made a big splash, the two men began to wonder why he did not resurface.

Arca and Panadero ran toward the pool and saw that Aguip was lying still at the bottom, Tabuena said.

When the two pulled Aguipo out of the water, they saw a big wound on his head. They applied first aid before taking him to the Quirino Memorial Medical Center, Tabuena said. Doctors declared him dead at 9:20 p.m.

The victim's body was later taken to the Philippine National Police Crime Laboratory. *Philip C. Tubeza*

Caloocan vendor killed by fast truck

A SPEEDING truck on Monday morning killed a vendor in Baesa, Caloocan City.

Balut vendor Paz Cañezo, 57, of Libis, Baesa, was crossing the Manila exit of the North Luzon Expressway when she was sideswiped by a Fuso Fighter truck at about 5 a.m. Monday, police said.

The Manila-bound truck was driven by Pedro Puno Jr., police said.

Instead of bringing Cañezo to the hospital after the accident, her neighbors brought her to her house, said case investigator SPO2 Romulo Rosagaso.

Puno then sought assistance from the Philippine National Construction Corp., police said.

But Caloocan police and PNCC authorities found the *balut* vendor already dead when they reached her house. Her body was brought to the Funeraria La Ciudad for autopsy.

Puno was charged with reckless imprudence resulting in homicide before the Caloocan City Prosecutor's Office. *Paul Ernest Lazaro and Louie Jon Sanchez*

Painter takes child hostage

By Christian V. Esguerra

A THREE-HOUR hostage drama gripped a sleepy Caloocan community when a house painter threatened to kill a 10-year-old girl on Monday.

Police are still trying to determine why Reynulfo Isaias, 40, of 615 Consular Area, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig, took hostage Joan Panganiban from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Monday.

Shortly after he surrendered, Isaias told reporters that taking the girl hostage "was my only way to stay alive."

He claimed several men had been pursuing him since Saturday night.

Investigators could not make sense of his statement and speculated that he either had drug or mental problems.

After eating at Bestfriends restaurant on Samson Road, Isaias casually walked into a beauty parlor across the street at about 11 a.m. for a haircut, said Caloocan Police chief Supt. Benjardi Mantele.

As he was cutting Isaias' hair, parlor owner Joji Ignacio, 39, said he noticed the man was fidgeting and kept looking back at the restaurant where he ate.

Minutes later, Isaias grabbed a pair of scissors from the parlor owner and dragged Ignacio's niece Panganiban to the toilet, according to police.

Ignacio went outside and screamed for help, prompting neighbors to alert the authorities.

In a few minutes, Caloocan policemen arrived and surrounded the area.

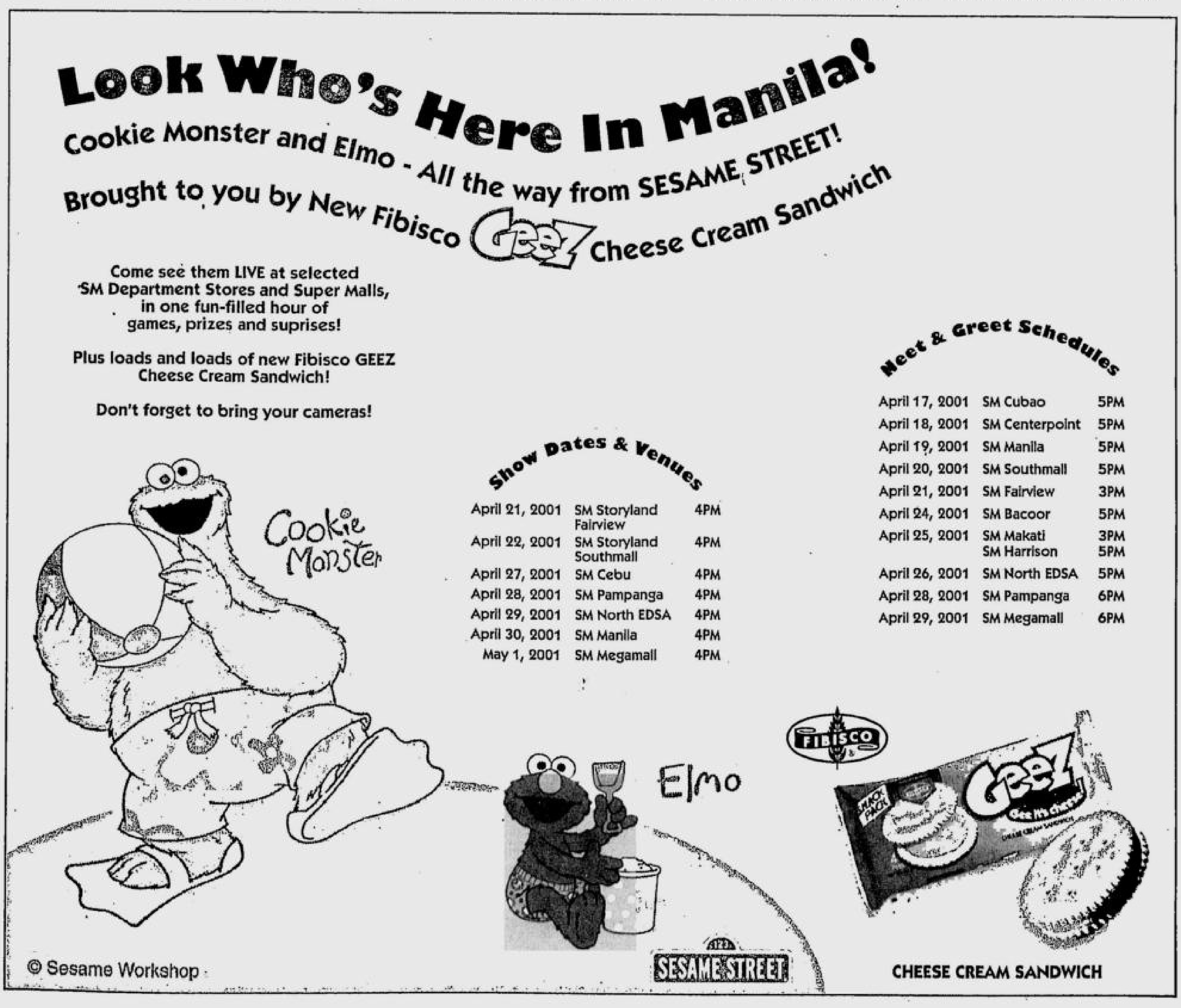
At 1 p.m., Isaias demanded to talk to his cousin Nardo Malaspas of Arcadio Street, Bisig ng Kabataan.

Reporters, barangay officials, and police officers tried to convince Isaias to surrender but he only wanted to talk to Malaspas.

The cousin finally arrived at 1:50 p.m. and, after they talked for a few minutes in Ilocano, Isaias finally surrendered.

Clad in black polo shirt and black pants and with his haircut unfinished, police escorted Isaias out of the parlor as bystanders wildly cheered.

But parlor owner Ignacio, still upset that his niece was taken hostage, sneaked past the police barricade and tried to hit the suspect with a hairbrush. He missed Isaias by a hair's breadth.



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April 27, 2001	SM Cebu	4PM
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April 29, 2001	SM North EDSA	4PM
April 30, 2001	SM Manila	4PM
May 1, 2001	SM Megamall	4PM

Meet & Greet Schedules

April 17, 2001	SM Cubao	5PM
April 18, 2001	SM Centerpoint	5PM
April 19, 2001	SM Manila	5PM
April 20, 2001	SM Southmall	5PM
April 21, 2001	SM Fairview	3PM
April 24, 2001	SM Bacoor	5PM
April 25, 2001	SM Makati SM Harrison	3PM 5PM
April 26, 2001	SM North EDSA	5PM
April 28, 2001	SM Pampanga	6PM
April 29, 2001	SM Megamall	6PM

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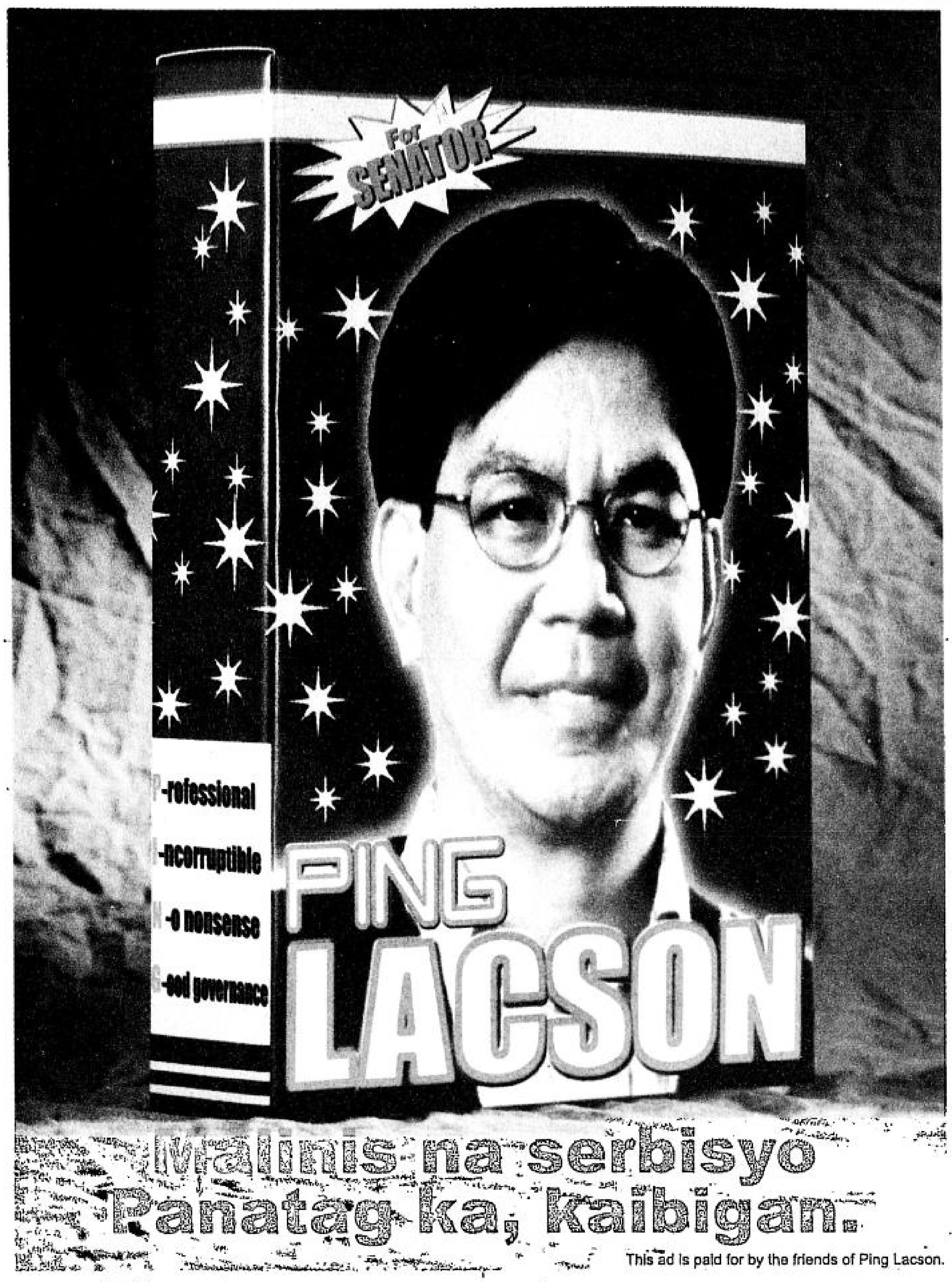

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Atienza: No mudslinging for me

By Jerome Aning

MANILA Mayor Lito Atienza yesterday splashed cold water on the brewing word war between him and his arch-rival in the mayoral race, Alfredo Lim, saying he does not want to engage the former interior secretary in a "counter-productive mudslinging contest."

"(The mayor) would prefer spending the remaining time left in the campaign explaining his accomplishments and programs to the voters," said Atienza's spokesman, city legal officer Melchor Monsod.

"Why would he allow himself to be dragged into the muck?" Monsod said. "That would be a disservice to the voters, especially to the young."

Atienza and Lim have repeatedly clashed during radio and TV debates, charging each other over what each of them did or failed to do during their terms of office.

The most serious accusation that Lim made against Atienza is that the incumbent mayor is protecting an alleged drug lord named Kim Wong. Monsod said Lim, the former interior secretary, raised the accusation last year and not last month.

"Why did he not arrest the guy," Monsod said. "If he has solid evidence against Mr. Wong, give it to us and we will have Mr. Wong arrested."

Lim also accused Atienza of misusing P200 million which the City Hall received from the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp. when Atienza was still vice mayor.

Monsod said the P200-million Pagcor fund that went to then Vice Mayor Atienza's office was allocated over a period of six years not only for the vice mayor but for the 38 members of the city council.

With reports from Jeusa Raflores and Carina Roncesvalles

JPE vows to back Armida legislation

REELECTIONIST Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile will support legislation authored by his sister Armida Siguion-Reyna, who is running for congresswoman of Makati's 1st district.

Enrile made this announcement in a recent rally in Barangay Poblacion, Makati City.

Enrile said he would lobby for the speedy enactment of measures that his sister would draw.

Siguion-Reyna has repeatedly declared that loyalty to friends is one of her best traits and that she would not turn her back on former President Joseph Estrada.

"Now that he is in deep trouble, I will not be the type of friend who will just abandon him in the gutter," she said. "He may be arrested tomorrow, the following day, or next week. I will even accompany him to jail. But I will never abandon him."

BATACAN'S BACKERS

The candidacy of Esmeraldo "Esmy" Batacan (middle), who is running for congressman of Pasig City, is endorsed by Senate president and PDP-Laban founder and chair Aquilino Pimentel Jr. (right), and Dean Jose Sundiang of the San Beda College of Law, where the candidate teaches law. In his letter to Pasig residents, Pimentel said Batacan deserves the city's congressional seat because of his "pro-God, pro-country, pro-poor advocacies and competence."

'Political suicide'

REELECTIONIST Cavite Gov. Ramon "Bong" Revilla Jr. of the Lakas-NUCD is still unbeatable in the province because of his good performance and his rival, Rep. Ayong Maliksi of the Partido Magdalo, is only wasting effort and money in running against the incumbent, according to former Cavite Rep. Renato Dragon.

Dragon said this during a recent meeting in Barangay Anabu in Imus town.

Dragon, who lost to Revilla in the 1998 elections, is trying to regain his former post. He said Maliksi is not aware that former Gov. Johnny Remulla is pushing Maliksi into a "political suicide" because the elder Remulla knows that his sons, Vice Gov. Jonvic Remulla and TV journalist Gilbert Remulla, are not yet ripe to face Revilla in the polls.

Dragon said Maliksi did not do anything while in Congress so he should not be governor.

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Binay accused of plunder

By Michael Lim Ubac and Nelson F. Flores

MAKATI—Vice Mayor Edu Manzano yesterday asked Justice Secretary Hernando Perez and Ombudsman Aniano Desierto to investigate Mayor Elenita Binay and her husband, former Makati Mayor Jejomar Binay, for allegedly amassing ill-gotten wealth amounting to at least P1 billion.

In a news conference, Manzano and opposition councilors said they believe the Binays accumulated their ill-gotten wealth during the last 12 years that they have been in power.

But Jejomar Binay merely shrugged off the accusations and what he described as his political opponents' attempt to involve national government agencies in a desperate, election-related witch-hunt.

"It's the election season, so there is nothing unexpected about it," Binay said.

He was mayor of Makati from 1986 to 1998. His wife Elenita ran and won the same post in 1998. Jejomar is running for mayor against Manzano in the May 14 elections.

Manzano said Desierto and Perez should immediately place the Binay couple under investigation to strengthen the plunder case filed against Jejomar with the Sandiganbayan in 1987 by then Ombudsman Conrado Vasquez in connection with the P137-million worth of anomalous transactions and purchases.

Aside from the plunder case, the Binays and several ranking City Hall officials are facing graft and malversation cases with the Office of the Ombudsman for their alleged failure to remit the monthly contributions of casual employees to the Government Service Insurance System, Pag-IBIG, and Medicare, among others.

Desierto is expected to resolve the cases this month.

Manzano said that the alleged massive overpricing of government purchases and anomalous transactions in the construction of the new 22-story P3.2-billion City Hall were the source of the couple's unexplained wealth.

Councilor Mark Joseph said the P1 billion in unexplained wealth of the Binays was a very "conservative estimate" considering that this only represented some of the properties allegedly belonging to the couple.

Among these are a 600-hectare modern farm at Rosario, Batangas, worth P600 million, said Joseph, who also claimed to have received reports that the Binays maintain "an air-conditioned pig pen to ensure high levels of production."

Quoting published reports on the Binays alleged properties, Joseph said the couple also owns a luxury condominium at the Peak in Hong Kong, where the famous action star Jackie Chan also lives; a mansion in Tagaytay; four condominium units at plush Rockwell Center in Makati; a P30-million unit at the Twin Towers; several houses in exclusive subdivisions in Makati, including a property on Orbit Street in Bel-Air, and several houses in other villages; and fast-food franchises, a funeral parlor and several pocket malls.Joseph also said that the Binay conjugal partnership has plunged Makati into a P5.7 billion debt to various financial institutions, despite the city being the country's Central Business District.

Binay said he has full confidence in the impartiality and sense of professionalism of the Department of Justice, the National Bureau of Investigation, and the Ombudsman.

But he lamented the failure of his political rivals to adhere to the terms of a covenant disavowing negative campaigning, which was signed in the presence of Makati Church leaders and lay workers last week. *With reports from Roselle Aguilar and Aimee Yamson*

METRO CAMPAIGN TRAIL

MELON AS 'BRIDGE'

Residents of Barangay Sta. Cruz welcome Melon Recto-Silverio (back row, third from right), the official candidate of Lakas NUCD-People Power Coalition for representative of Makati's first district. A businesswoman and a foreign service graduate of the Assumption Convent, Silverio has been a longtime council member of Barangay Forbes Park and considers herself the bridge between the rich and the poor of the city. With her above are her partymates Dean Barbers (second from right) who is running for vice mayor, and Jay Santiago (second from left) who is running for councilor.

CSC urges gov't employees to work for clean elections

THE CIVIL Service Commission (CSC) has issued a resolution encouraging government workers to render at least 100 hours of work as non-partisan volunteers for clean and honest elections.

Resolution No. 010802 says public sector workers could do this by joining the National Citizens' Movement for Free Elections (Namfrel) and the Parish Pastoral Council for Responsible Voting (PPCRV).

It also enjoined all heads of government departments to allow the participation of volunteers.

The project is part of the CSC's "Spirit of 100 Hours: Alay sa Bayan" program, which promotes volun-teerism in government.

In May 1998 elections, the CSC under then-chair Corazon Alma De Leon and Namfrel collaborated on a program called the Public Sector Volunteers for Honest, Orderly and Peaceful Elections or HOPE '98.

The implementing guidelines for the current project identify the roles of Namfrel and of PPCRV in the May 14 elections, specifically Namfrel's conduct of Operation Quick Count, and PPCRV's poll-watching, voter education, and voter assistance for PPCRV.

The guidelines also specify the types of volunteer work for each organization. The volunteers are encouraged to attend the volunteer orientation meetings in their agencies and to undergo training under Namfrel or PPCRV prior to their actual volunteer work.

The guidelines emphasize that the volunteers must be non-partisan to effectively carry out their tasks.

Napolcom cites Mandaluyong cops

THE MANDALUYONG City Police has been adjudged by the National Police Commission (Napolcom) as the "Most Citizen-Friendly Police Station for 2001."

The award was given in line with the celebration of the 5th Police-Community Relations Month, highlighting the role and achievements of police.

During the recognition rites held at the Mandaluyong City Hall compound, Mayor Benhur Abalos lauded the police force led by city Supt. Jose Gentiles for their overall performance and for serving as reliable partners of the local government.

Abalos noted that despite the police-residents ratio of 1:500, the city managed to control criminal activities and achieved a high crime solution rate of 83 percept.

In 1997, the city was also honored as the Best Police Station in the eastern Metro Manila district which also covers Marikina, San Juan and Pasig.

Planas unfazed by 'dynasties'

TWO-TERM Councilor Mike Planas, who is running for the congressional seat in the 3rd district of Quezon City, is up against three candidates who he said are trying to propagate political dynasties.

Planas identified them as Sen. Nikki Coseteng and her son Julian who is running for councilor; Maite Defensor, younger sister of HUDCC chair Mike Defensor; and Pinggoy Lagumbay, whose son Wency is also running for councilor in the city's 3rd district.

"People have learned that too much power in one family is dangerous," said Planas. "Members of political dynasties tend to be abusive and corrupt. That is where the danger lies."

Planas, who is an orphan, said that instead of being fazed by his opponents, he has been strengthened by his political resolve.

"Though they have their family members to help them campaign and I am all alone on the campaign trail since my wife (Pat-P Daza) is eight months pregnant and my siblings are in the United States, the reception I receive when I campaign house-to-house is overwhelming and very encouraging."

FRESNEDI AID

Reelectionist Mayor Jaime Fresnedi of Muntinlupa City greets a disabled resident in Barangay Buli. The woman is one of hundreds of Muntinlupa's persons with disabilities (PWDs) who have benefited from Fresnedi's free wheelchair and mobility aid program.

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(From page A25)

ics in two numbers revived by **Mariah Carey**—"Against All Odds" and "All By Myself." She went on to do two more duets with Leo—"Last Night of the World" and the **Andrea Boccelli-Celine Dion** number, "The Prayer," which Leo confessed he learned "only three days ago."

After Ima's numbers, Leo returned to the stage in a sleek black Armani tunic.

He had more Broadway tunes up his designer sleeve—the haunting "Bring Him Home" from "Les Miserables," "Music of the Night" from "Phantom of the Opera" and "This is the Moment" from "Jekyll and Hyde."

"The moment" for Leo lasted all of the two hours of that night's show, at the end of which the enraptured audience showed its appreciation with a well-deserved standing ovation. In "Miss Saigon" or in a "small" act like the Captain's Bar show, Leo deserves the highest accolade.

Of course the crowd chanted for more, and Leo gave in by singing **Rico J. Puno**'s hit, "May Bukas Pa."

After almost 10 years of doing "Miss Saigon," Leo's voice remains fresh and young and his performance always fearless and daring. That night, for instance, he also dared to sing the 4 Non-Blondes hit that has been sung to death, "What's Going On," and made it sound like new.

Leo will soon begin his new "Miss Saigon" tour that will last another 18 months. The people who watched him for two nights last week are luckier than most, for they have his music to keep him fresh in their hearts while he's away enchanting other audiences in other parts of the world.

While he's away, his music will always bring him home.

Comedians perform at Oh Bar

THE WACKY tandem of comedians John Lapus and Chokoleit will take centerstage in a show, "Pistahan sa Oh!," 9 tomorrow night, April 26, at Oh Sing-Along Resto-Bar, Delta Circle, Quezon Avenue, Quezon City.

The duo will be joined by Oh's roster of talents—Chazz, Ethel, Joyce Yadao and others.

Free entrance and no cover charge. For inquiries, call 411-1488 or 371-4870.

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6	DOLBY SURROUND	NARINIG MO BA ANG LATEST
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8	DOLBY SURROUND	SWEET NOVEMBER

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2	DOLBY SURROUND	THE SEDUCER
3	DTS	SWEET NOVEMBER
4	DOLBY SURROUND	DOUBLE TAKE
5	DOLBY DIGITAL	THE MEXICAN
6	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	MADERASO
7	DOLBY SURROUND	3,000 MILES TO GRACELAND
8	DOLBY SURROUND	RUGRATS IN PARIS
9	DOLBY SURROUND	ABAKADA...INA
10	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	AIR BUD 3

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1	DOLBY SURROUND	MADERASO
2	DOLBY SURROUND	ANTI-TRUST
3	DOLBY SURROUND	THE SEDUCER
4	DOLBY DIGITAL	THE MEXICAN
5	DOLBY SURROUND	ABAKADA ... INA
6	DOLBY SURROUND	NARINIG MO BA ANG LATEST
7	DOLBY DIGITAL	THE MEXICAN
8	DOLBY SURROUND	NARINIG MO BA ANG LATEST
9	DOLBY SURROUND	3,000 MILES TO GRACELAND
10	DOLBY SURROUND	RUGRATS IN PARIS
11	DOLBY SURROUND	THE CROW
12	DOLBY SURROUND	SWEET NOVEMBER

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1	DOLBY DIGITAL	SWEET NOVEMBER
2	DOLBY DIGITAL	3,000 MILES TO GRACELAND
3	DOLBY SURROUND	DOUBLE TAKE
4	DOLBY SURROUND	THE MEXICAN
5	DOLBY DIGITAL	ANTI-TRUST
6	DOLBY DIGITAL EX	THE MEXICAN
7	DOLBY SURROUND	AIR BUD 3
8	DOLBY SURROUND	RUGRATS IN PARIS
9	DOLBY SURROUND	NARINIG MO BA ANG LATEST
10	DOLBY SURROUND	NARINIG MO BA ANG LATEST
11	DOLBY SURROUND	ABAKADA...INA
12	DOLBY SURROUND	THE CROW

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2	DOLBY SURROUND	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
3	DOLBY DIGITAL	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
4	DTS	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
5	DOLBY SURROUND	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
6	DOLBY SURROUND	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
7	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	ABAKADA...INA
8	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	3,000 MILES TO GRACELAND
9	DOLBY SURROUND	NARINIG MO BA ANG LATEST
10	DOLBY SURROUND	THE MEXICAN
11	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	SWEET NOVEMBER
12	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	ANTI-TRUST

SM CITY NORTH EDSA 9295452

1	DOLBY SURROUND	RUGRATS IN PARIS
2	DOLBY SURROUND	NARINIG MO BA ANG LATEST
3	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	THE MEXICAN
4	DOLBY SURROUND	ABAKADA...INA
5	DOLBY SURROUND	SWEET NOVEMBER
6	DOLBY SURROUND	ANTI-TRUST
7	DTS	THE MEXICAN
8	DOLBY DIGITAL	3000 MILES TO GRACELAND
9	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	THE CROW
10	DOLBY SURROUND	ATTACK FORCE
11	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	NARINIG MO BA ANG LATEST
12	DOLBY SURROUND	AIR BUD 3

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1	ULTRA SURROUND	ANTI-TRUST
2	ULTRA SURROUND	ABAKADA...INA
3	DOLBY DIGITAL EX	SWEET NOVEMBER
4	ULTRA SURROUND	3,000 MILES TO GRACELAND
5	ULTRA SURROUND	MADERASO
6	ULTRA SURROUND	RUGRATS IN PARIS
7	ULTRA SURROUND	NARINIG MO BA ANG LATEST
8	DOLBY DIGITAL EX	THE MEXICAN
9	ULTRA SURROUND	AIR BUD 3
10	ULTRA SURROUND	THE CROW

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1	ULTRA SURROUND	THE MEXICAN
2	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	3,000 MILES TO GRACELAND
3	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	NARINIG MO BA ANG LATEST
4	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	ABAKADA ... INA

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1	DOLBY SURROUND	THE MEXICAN
2	ULTRA SURROUND	DOUBLE TAKE
3	ULTRA SURROUND	SAVE THE LAST DANCE
4	ULTRA SURROUND	WEDDING PLANNER
5	ULTRA SURROUND	RUGRATS IN PARIS
6	ULTRA SURROUND	NARINIG MO BA ANG LATEST
7	DOLBY SURROUND	

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2	ULTRA SURROUND	CLOSED
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5	ULTRA SURROUND	THE MEXICAN
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3	DOLBY SURROUND	SWEET NOVEMBER
4	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	ABAKADA...INA
5	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	MADERASO
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6 ABAKADA .. INA
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8 (SDDS) SWEET NOVEMBER
9 (DOLBY) 3,000 MILES TO GRACELAND

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3 RESERVE
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6

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8 SWEET NOVEMBER
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2 NARINIG MO BA ANG LATEST
3 EVANGELINE 14
4 ABAKADA...INA
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3 (DTS) SWEET NOVEMBER

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2 (DTS) SWEET NOVEMBER
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4 CHOCOLAT

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4 (DTS) NARINIG MO BA ANG LATEST

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3 (DTS) SWEET NOVEMBER
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5 OPERA OF THE PHANTOM

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ALI MALL CINEPLEX-4 (SDDS)	3000 MILES TO GRACELAND
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ALI MALL CINEPLEX-6 (DOLBY)	RUGRATS IN PARIS
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-7 (DOLBY)	DOUBLE TAKE
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FARMERS PLAZA-2 (DOLBY)	EXIT WOUNDS (Adv. Screening)
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TIMES	PROOF OF LIFE DEMON GATE
QUEZON CITY	
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ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	CLOSED
ACT-4	CLOSED
CORONET-2	BAYAD NA PATI KALULUWA MO
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REMAR	NARINIG MO BA ANG LATEST
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CINEMA-1	ATTACK FORCE
CINEMA-2	MADERASO
CINEMA-3	THE CROW
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	RUGRATS IN PARIS
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	DOUBLE TAKE
CINEMA-6	SA HULING PAGHIHINTAY
CINEMA-7	THE SEDUCER
CINEMA-8	NARINIG MO BA ANG LATEST
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	THE MEXICAN
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	3,000 MILES TO GRACELAND
CINEMA-11 (SDDS)	SWEET NOVEMBER
CINEMA-12	NARINIG MO BA ANG LATEST
CINEMA-14	NARINIG MO BA ANG LATEST
CINEMA-15	ABAKADA . INA
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CINEMA-3	MS CONGENIALITY
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CINEMA-1	ANTI-TRUST
CINEMA-2	RUGRATS IN PARIS
CINEMA-3	THE MEXICAN
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ENTERTAINMENT

LOUIE C. CAMINO, Editor

Animated features get their own Oscar category

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

NEXT year's Oscar awards will be particularly exciting for makers and lovers of animated movies, because for the first time in their existence, an Oscar will be handed out to the winner in the new category, Best Animated Feature.

This is a huge compliment to the resurgent field of animated feature filmmaking, which continues to go great guns despite such awkward klinkers like "Anastasia" and "El Dorado."

In the past, animated features had to compete with live-action movies for wards, and often failed to place. With a new awards category all to itself, the animated feature has been given a decided boost and is expected to come into its own.

This is good news for Filipino animators, who rank among the world's best. Too bad that, for the most part, they're working on foreign productions—indeed, quite a number of them have been "exported" to live and work abroad.

Still, we can see the day when a savvy local movie producer with a long-range view of things will plunk down the P50 million needed to come up with an animated feature. If so, and if the movie turns out to be world-class, perhaps this is the way that we can finally figure in the Oscars derby.

In addition to winning awards, the incentive is the fact that animated features have become very popular internationally. Proof positive of this is the fact that "Toy Story 2" and "Chicken Run" did phenomenal business last year.

Which animated features will compete for the Oscar in their new category next year? Excuse us for being biased, but we've seen advance footage of Dreamworks/PDI's "Shrek," and it looks like a potential finalist, at the very least.

Its edge over other new feature-length animated productions is its entertaining story, coupled with kooky characters, sassy scripting, and a lot of innovations in terms of visualization. All these plus points make it much more than just a cartoon for children.

With these and other developments, the hope is that animated features will eventually be good enough to engage the interest and empathy of a wide spectrum of viewers, adults as well as children, so big-screen animators can finally break through the box that has limited the scope and depth of their work all these years.

Aside from "Shrek," we see "Rugrats in Paris" also figuring in the competition for the Best Animated Feature Oscar. Other possible contenders: "Recess: School's Out," "Monsters, Inc." and "Atlantis: The Lost Empire."

In "Recess: School's Out," the school year is finally over and **T.J. Detweiler** is looking forward to a fun-filled summer. But boredom quickly sets in until T.J. discovers a way to do away with summer vacation!

Former principal Dr. Benedict, who once tried to eliminate recess from the school schedule, now plans to use a laser beam to alter the weather and create a permanent winter, so T.J. calls in all his friends for help.

"Monsters, Inc." is about the largest factory in the monster world, and **James P. Sullivan** is one of its top Scarers, along with his Scare Assistant, **Mike Wazowski**, an opinionated, feisty, one-eyed monsters.

Visiting from the human world is Boo; a tiny girl who goes where no human has ever gone before.

And "Atlantis: The Lost Emprie" focuses on an inexperienced young adventurer who becomes the key to unraveling an ancient mystery when he joins a group of daredevil adventurers to find the legendary lost empire of Atlantis.

TV treats

SUNDAY April 29 at 10 p.m. on the National Geographic Channel, "Floods" shows how scientists attempt to predict sudden storms in order to save lives. With enough warning, cities and towns in a flood's path can prepare for disaster.

At 7 p.m. on Star Movies, "A Long Time Ago: The Story of Star Wars" lead up to the first TV screening of "The Phantom Menace" at 9 p.m. Other pre-programming for the big event includes "Behind the Scenes: The Phantom Menace" at 8 p.m. and "The Making of Phantom Menace" at 8:30 p.m,

Leo away for 18 months, but his music will bring him home

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Leah Salterio

EITHER the popularity of "Miss Saigon" remains high in Manila, or people just simply love to hear and watch **Leo Valdez** perform. Whatever their reason was, people packed the Captain's Bar of Mandarin Oriental Saturday night for the "farewell" concert of the "Miss Saigon" star who has been described as "the best Engineer ever."

Leo performed minus the scraggy costumes and long mane he wore as The Engineer, as well as without the shiny show-stopping Cadillac. Leo, his voice and his intense performance were more than enough to create a little night of great music.

The first time he appeared on stage, he was in an elegant magenta Alexander McQueen trench coat he opened the show with "As If We Never Said Goodbye" from the Broadway hit, "Sunset Boulevard."

Then he segued into a rousing Broadway medley of "Everything's Coming Up Roses" and "Don't Rain on My Parade." After the first number, the audience did not care anymore if a flood was raging outside the hotel that night.

DESIGNED to delight, Leo Valdez dazzles in an Armani.

Leo always said a mouthful in his spiels in between songs, but the audience didn't seem to mind. They lapped up all his anecdotes, from his growing-up years in Negros to his playing The Engineer in "Miss Saigon."

Chances are most of the people in the audience that night previously heard him sing only in "Miss Saigon." But Leo regaled the Captain's Bar crowd with songs he had never sung before.

First he surprised and titillated them with **Billy Joel**'s bouncy "Uptown Girl," and threw in some fancy footwork. He later did **Elton John**'s "Goodbye, Yellow Brick Road."

His Motown medley of "I Just Don't Wanna be Lonely," "My Girl" and "Could it be I'm Falling in Love" was very well applauded and the audience sang with him.

Having just performed in the recent Manila production of "Miss Saigon," Leo is set to reprise The Engineer in the musical's productions in Hong Kong, Singapore and later in Manchester, Dublin and Birmingham.

The Captain's Bar show was also a fund raiser for the Bakyas Evangelical Church in Bacolod, where his parents regularly hear Mass. Helping Leo were sponsors like Mandarin Oriental Manila, PLDT, San Miguel Beer Light, FF Cruz, Churchill's, Philippine Airlines and Asiana.

Leo paid musical tribute to his roots in the Philippine musical theater. He waxed nostalgic before he sang "Magsimula Ka," the theme from the musical of the same title written by **Nestor Torre** and **Gines Tan**, which kicked off his singing career.

The song, also sung by Leo, won the top plum in the First Asian Popular Song Festival, and Leo was adjudged grand prize winner with a perfect-10 score from the international judges, a feat that has not been duplicated in that festival.

Leo also sang "Minsan ang Minahal ay Ako," the stirring number from another Nestor Torre musical, "Katy!," with music by **Ryan Cayabyab**.

He sang contemporary Tagalog hits in a stirring medley—"Kahit Na," "Sana'y Maulit Muli," "Ikaw Lang ang Mamahalin" and "Mahawi Man ang Ulap."

He sang **Louie Ocampo**'s moving "Kahit Isang Saglit," originally written for Louie's child who died in infancy.

Before he sang "Home," Leo recalled his childhood days in Negros, where he swam in the river and played in the rice fields. The man who is performing all over the world still misses his boyhood playgrounds.

Ima Castro, Kim in the last half of the Manila production of "Miss Saigon," joined Leo in a duet in "I Finally Found Someone," another showstopper as Leo and Ima matched each other note for note. Even the artists who originally recorded the song, **Barbra Streisand** and **Bryan Adams**, would have been awed.

Ima displayed her impressive vocal histrion

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DOUBLE TAKE - P 13 1:30, 3:30, 5:30, 7:30, 9:30	NARINIG MO BA ANG LATEST - P 13 12:50, 3:05, 5:20, 7:35, 9:50	SWEET NOVEMBER - P 13 12:00, 2:30, 5:00, 7:30, 10:00

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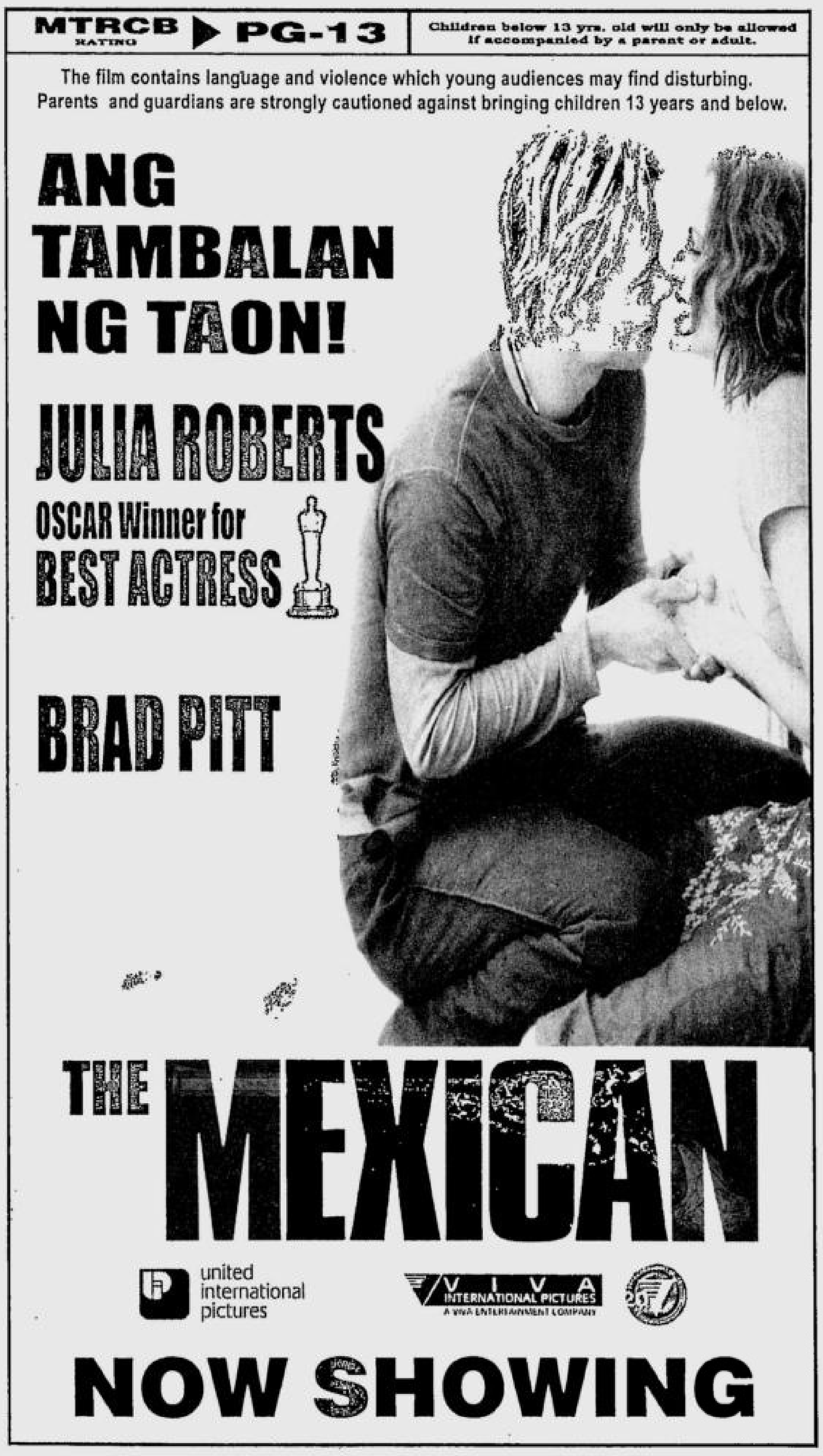
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BUSINESS
RAUL O. MARCELO, Editor ▨ CORRIE S. NARISMA, Assistant Editor

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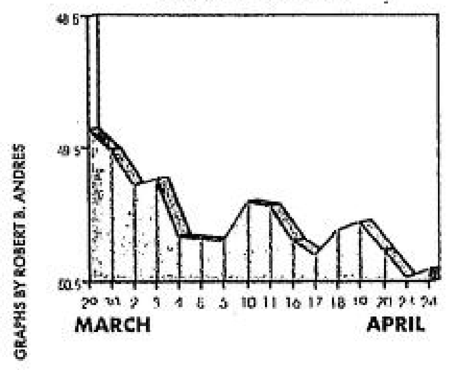
HONDA

Hike in Napocor power rates looms

INDICATORS

CURRENCIES

PESO - DOLLAR



GRAPHS BY ROBERT B. ANDRES

Peso-Dollar Rate

P50.415 = $1
As of 5 p.m., April 24, 2001

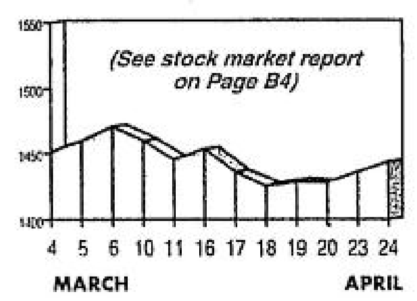
Y121.24 = $1
The US dollar was trading at 121.24 as of 5 p.m., April 24, 2001

GOLD:$263.80/264.30 per ounce Hong Kong, April 24, 2001

STOCK MARKET

Stocks up slightly

PSE Composite Index



SHARES on the main composite index closed slightly higher yesterday, supported by some selected buying interest in blue chips seen having good earnings prospects or fundamentals, traders said.

The broader market, however, was mixed with the All Shares index finishing down 9.94 points at 736.88 while turnover was again lackluster ending at P303.72 million.

"Some investors were trying to pick up bargain stocks . . . namely those companies that were able to withstand the economic crisis last year and could perform

STOCKS/ B2

By RONNEL W. DOMINGO

THE STATE-OWNED National Power Corp. will seek authority from the Energy Regulatory Board to increase its basic electricity rate.

Napocor president Jesus N. Alcordo said the debt-strapped power firm needed to increase its return on rate base from 2 percent to 8 percent, which its creditors require.

He added that Napocor would start applying an automatic pricing mechanism that was suspended during the term of President Joseph Estrada.

Alcordo was referring to the fuel purchase cost adjustment, which automatically moves with the changes in prices of fuel and forms part of Napocor's power charges.

Alcordo said an increase in the basic rate was necessary considering Napocor's precarious financial situation.

In an earlier interview, he said Napocor had to find alternative means of financing its P42-billion debt that would mature in November this year.

He said they may not necessarily resort to a bond flotation, but Napocor would be borrowing money to pay its debts.

"We have to find ways to keep Napocor afloat," Alcordo said.

Along with the foreign exchange adjustment, the basic rate and the FPCA constitute Napocor's effective selling rate for electricity to utilities like Meralco.

The Napocor president said the cash-strapped firm would also recover part of P4.8 billion worth of FPCA that it failed to collect due to the latter's suspension.

Alcordo said Napocor was charging a basic rate of P1.87 per kilowatt-hour in Luzon, P2.05 per kwh in the Visayas, P1.40 per kwh in Mindanao and P2.04 per kwh in small island grids.

At the same time, Napocor is set to recover the 20-centavo-per-kwh decrease in the rates it charges to power distributors.

The rate decrease would be implemented for three months and would cost Napocor about P1.2 billion in lost revenues.

An additional charge of 2 centavos to 3 centavos per kwh would be implemented for 12 months to 18 months for Napocor to recover the amount.

Napocor announced last month that it has been hard-pressed to plug its cash deficit and stop its ballooning liabilities.

Napocor reported that its total financial obligations as of end-2000 had reached P900 billion.

Alcordo had earlier announced a plan to sell part of its supply and spare parts inventory to raise about P10 billion.

Aside from this, Napocor is pushing for a review of its contracts with independent power producers by a government inter-agency body.

Entered into at the height of the power crisis of the mid-1990s, Napocor officials said the contracts have become too expensive.

The state firm expects to save about P7 billion from the renegotiation of the IPP contracts.

GMA says gov't working to improve negative rating

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday said her government was working hard to "fix structural imbalances" amid a negative outlook by New York-based credit rating agency Moody's Investor Services.

"We just have to keep trying harder," the President told a news conference.

She acknowledged that the country's exports have weakened, but stressed this was linked to "what is happening in the international picture," referring to the weakening of demand from the US market, its main trading partner.

"So we have to cope with what is happening in the international picture and fix our structural imbalances," she said, adding that this included a gaping budget deficit.

Among others, she said the government would focus on areas where it has a competitive advantage, including its large educated labor force, and small and medium enterprises.

"If we can sustain this, we hope our rating will improve," she said.

Ms Macapagal was reacting to published reports yesterday that Moody's has retained its negative outlook on the Philippines due to continued political uncertainties and declining economic fundamentals. *(See related story on Page B7.)*

It rated the Philippines below investment grade or Ba1, saying that while Ms Macapagal has "set a more deliberate and more responsible tone to policy-making" she faces "considerable challenges due to structural, economic and political problems."

The President said among the things that contribute to political uncertainty was the impending arrest and trial of deposed leader Joseph Estrada on the capital crime of plunder.

"But these things are under our system independent of the Philippine government, so we just have to follow the law, follow the Constitution and wait for the Sandiganbayan (anti-graft court) to make its decision," she stressed.

The Sandiganbayan yesterday said it was still studying whether there was "probable cause" to order Estrada's arrest for plunder, a crime which carries the death penalty. ***AFP***

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Meralco posts 48% drop in 1st quarter net profit

By Ronnel W. Domingo

THE LOPEZ-OWNED Manila Electric Co. reported a 48.4-percent year-on-year decline in net income for the first quarter.

Meralco said in a report it chalked up a net income of P394.4 million for the first three months this year compared to P764.1 million for the same period last year.

The power distribution giant said the substantial decrease was mainly due to the deteriorating distribution margins resulting from the delay in the granting of a rate increase.

The firm's petition for a 30-centavo-per-kilowatt-hour rate increase had been pending with the Energy Regulatory Board for a year due to strong opposition from the Office of the Solicitor General and consumer groups like the National Association of Electricity Consumers for Reforms.

The OSG is questioning Meralco's computation of its return on rate base and its asset or rate base.

The OSG argued that the issues concerning Meralco's petition had been raised and are pending with the Supreme Court so the ERB should suspend action on the case.

On the other hand, Meralco also reported a 42.7-percent increase in operating revenues from P22.05 billion in the first quarter of 2000 to P31.47 billion this year.

The rise in revenues could be attributed mainly to the 43.2-percent increase in the average cost of purchased power from the state-owned National Power Corp and independent power producers, Meralco said.

Also, the firm's operating expenses for the first quarter of 2001 reached P30.51 billion compared to last year's P20.99 billion, up by 45.4 percent.

The power distributor attributed this to higher cost of purchased power, operations and maintenance expenses, the depreciation of the peso against the dollar and franchise tax.

This, Meralco said, slightly pulled down operating income by 10.4 percent from P10.7 billion in 2000 to P8.56 billion this year.

Meralco's capital expenditures totaled P1.86 billion this year, up by 11.7 percent from P1.67 billion in 2000.

Total sales volume for the first quarter of 2001 reached 5.343 billion kwh, 5.7 percent more than last year's 5.055 billion kwh.

IT investments surpassed ₱6B as of mid-April

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

THE BOARD of Investments reported yesterday that investments in the information technology sector have reached P6.352 billion as of mid-April this year.

The country's biggest corporations that are seeking to extend their dominance from the old to the new economy are leading the infotech bandwagon.

The biggest IT investment made so far this year is Philweb.com Inc.'s P2.268-billion budget to build the country's biggest Internet service provider. Philweb.com obtained pioneer incentives to develop and host Web pages and provide hotel reservation, school tuition fee payments, and remittances through the Internet.

The second biggest investor was Ayalaport Makati Inc., which is spending P1.069 billion along with a Japanese investor to put up an Internet data center in the country. Another major project is Sourcepilipinas.com's P447.863-million investment for an E-marketplace center in the country.

A growing number of local and foreign businessmen are taking advantage of the generous perks granted by the BOI and the Philippine Economic Zone Authority for IT projects which the government believes could be a major dollar earner for the country.

The Peza is also anticipating a surge in IT investments as it granted IT park status to five industrial estate and building projects in Metro Manila and Cebu with a development cost of roughly P70 billion. These projects would push to nine the number of IT parks that have been approved by Peza.

Stocks . . .

(From page B1)

well this year," A&A Securities research head Astro del Castillo said.

However, the market remained thin, as many investors preferred to remain on the sidelines ahead of the May elections.

There was also some nervousness over how supporters of ousted President Joseph Estrada may react when he is arrested for the non-bailable charge of plunder, Del Castillo said.

Equitable PCI Bank fund manager Edison Yap said the main index was again fractionally higher, showing a surprising resilience in the face of weak regional markets.

"Perhaps a floor is being set and there could be some positioning going on before the election."

Reuters

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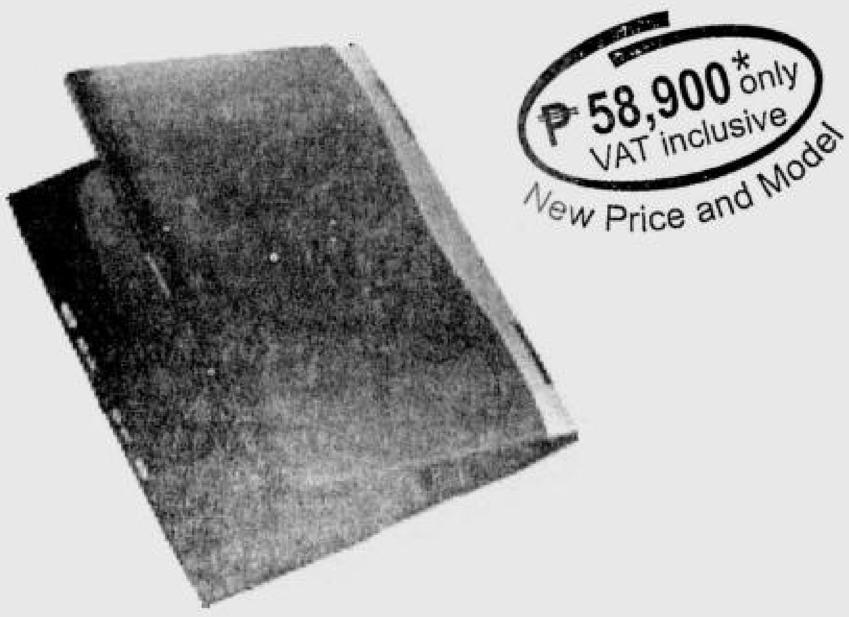

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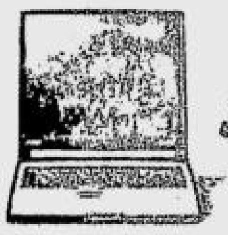

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CLUB FILIPINO		350,000
EAGLE RIDGE A/B*/C**	450,000	600,000*/700,000 **
FOREST HILLS A/B*/C**	260,000	290,000/350,000*/450,000 **
MAKATI SPORTS A/B*	400,000/450,000 *	405,000/500,000 *
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RIVIERA GOLF A/B*	250,000	280,000/420,000 *
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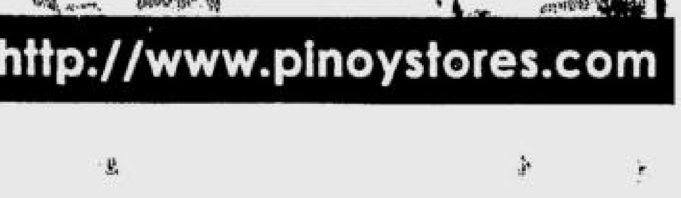

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Urban exec bailed out kin, documents show

BY RAUL C. DANCEL

AT LEAST three relatives of Urban Bank Inc. president Teodoro Borlongan were able to pre-terminate investments in Urbancorp Investment Inc. two days before Urban Bank went on a holiday in April last year.

Documents obtained by the INQUIRER showed that Borlongan's father-in-law, Eduardo Enriquez, was able to withdraw P50.8 million worth of investments in Urbancorp., Urban Bank's investment arm.

Enriquez's own company, Enriquez Security Services Inc., one of the country's biggest security agencies, was itself able to pre-terminate P6.4 million worth of placements in Urbancorp.

Borlongan's brother-in-law, Eduardo Enriquez Jr., was also able to pull his money out of Urbancorp before Urban Bank went belly up. He was able to withdraw some P3.5 million out of Urbancorp.

Borlongan's wife, Dolores, pre-terminated some P1.6 million.

All these withdrawals were made on April 24 last year, just two days before Urban Bank went on a holiday, according to documents obtained by the INQUIRER.

A person familiar with the matter said these information surfaced only in November last year, seven months after Urban Bank closed down, because the checks involved were all payable to cash. In other words, no names appeared on the checks.

In an interview, Borlongan neither confirmed nor deny the existence of these checks, saying he was constrained by the bank secrecy law from explaining in detail what happened to Urban Bank and Urbancorp.

"I'd like to say the whole thing. I'd want to say what really went on, what role (Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Governor Rafael) Buenaventura played, but at this point, I'm willing to fight in the court," he told the INQUIRER.

Giving a general reaction to reports that some of his relatives and friends were able to withdraw money days before Urban Bank went on a holiday, he said: "When people make judgment about people who withdrew, the first thing to consider is how much the person leave behind in the bank. Secondly, if we're saying relatives who withdrew, one should also find out the equally close relatives who were not able to withdraw."

He added that "one does not have control of other people's money. It's a different thing if one stole or took money that was not his and intended to personally benefit from it. What I find wrong is if the money was not his and he intended to make money from it."

Urban Bank declared a holiday on April 26 last year due to heavy withdrawals triggered by speculations that the bank was deeply indebted and was running out of money. Bank officials said these withdrawals, which reached P4 billion, created a liquidity crisis that went out of control.

Government regulators said, on the other hand, that Urban Bank's cash-flow problems were really caused by its top officials' decision to buy P4.6 billion worth of "trash receivables" from Urbancorp.

Urbancorp suffered huge losses because of its failed investments in real estate and soaring interest rates triggered by the 1997-1998 Asian financial crisis.

Government regulators are hoping to reopen Urban Bank by July this year.

The Export and Industry Bank of the Philippines and a group of small depositors have submitted a joint proposal to rehabilitate and reopen Urban Bank by July 1 this year, a plan supported by Urban Bank's three major depositors, namely San Miguel Corp., Manila Electric Co. and Petron Corp.

Philippine Deposit Insurance Corp. is seen approving the rehabilitation proposal this week.

In Congress, however, Senate Minority Leader Rene Cayetano bucked a plan by state pension fund Social Security System to bail out Urban Bank.

The SSS is a major shareholder of the bank.

Cayetano, chair of the Senate committee on justice and human rights, said the plan to use P600 million of the SSS' funds to re-open Urban Bank would only aggravate the SSS' financial situation.

"Worse, there is no assurance that the millions of pesos to be invested by the SSS in Urban Bank would result in an improved state of finance for the SSS," he said.

Cayetano said SSS president Vitaliano Nañagas II should put the SSS' finances in order instead of placing money in "another questionable" investment. ***With a report from Juliet L. Javellana***

PSBank to acquire Global branches

BY ELENA R. TORRIJOS

PUBLICLY listed Philippines Savings Bank, the thrift bank unit of Metropolitan Bank and Trust Co., is acquiring 13 branches with assets of P137 million from sister firm Global Business Bank, sources familiar with the situation said.

PSBank and Global Bank have secured approval for the transaction from state-owned Philippine Deposit Insurance Corp. but has yet to get the nod of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas, which has been tightly regulating branch expansion.

"Some branches (of Global) are redundant and are located in markets more appropriate for us," an executive of PSBank said. "It's a quick way of expanding our network."

PSBank has 88 branches nationwide, the same number since the Asian financial crisis in 1997, while Global Bank has more than 140.

In a press briefing following the bank's annual stockholders' meeting Monday afternoon, PSBank president Arthur Ty said the bank made some modest gains in the first quarter and should perform better this year than last year's profit of P120.7 million.

"Last year was quite difficult, this year is also difficult but I think we have a better handle on the issues. Hopefully there will be no political issues on the horizon," he said.

Ty said the bank would be focusing on building its consumer portfolio such as auto, mortgage and personal loans.

He also disclosed that the bank was targeting to improve slightly the bank's bad loan reserve cover to 60 percent from 57.8 percent.

During PSBank's annual stockholders meeting the other day, stockholders of the bank elected to the board senior vice president and chief operating officer Joey Bermudez and former Science and Technology Secretary Filomeno Uriarte. PSBank had increased the number of board directors to 11 from 10.

PSBank is 80-percent owned by Metrobank, the country's biggest lender, which in turn also owns majority of Global Bank.

SM Prime units eye Belle venture

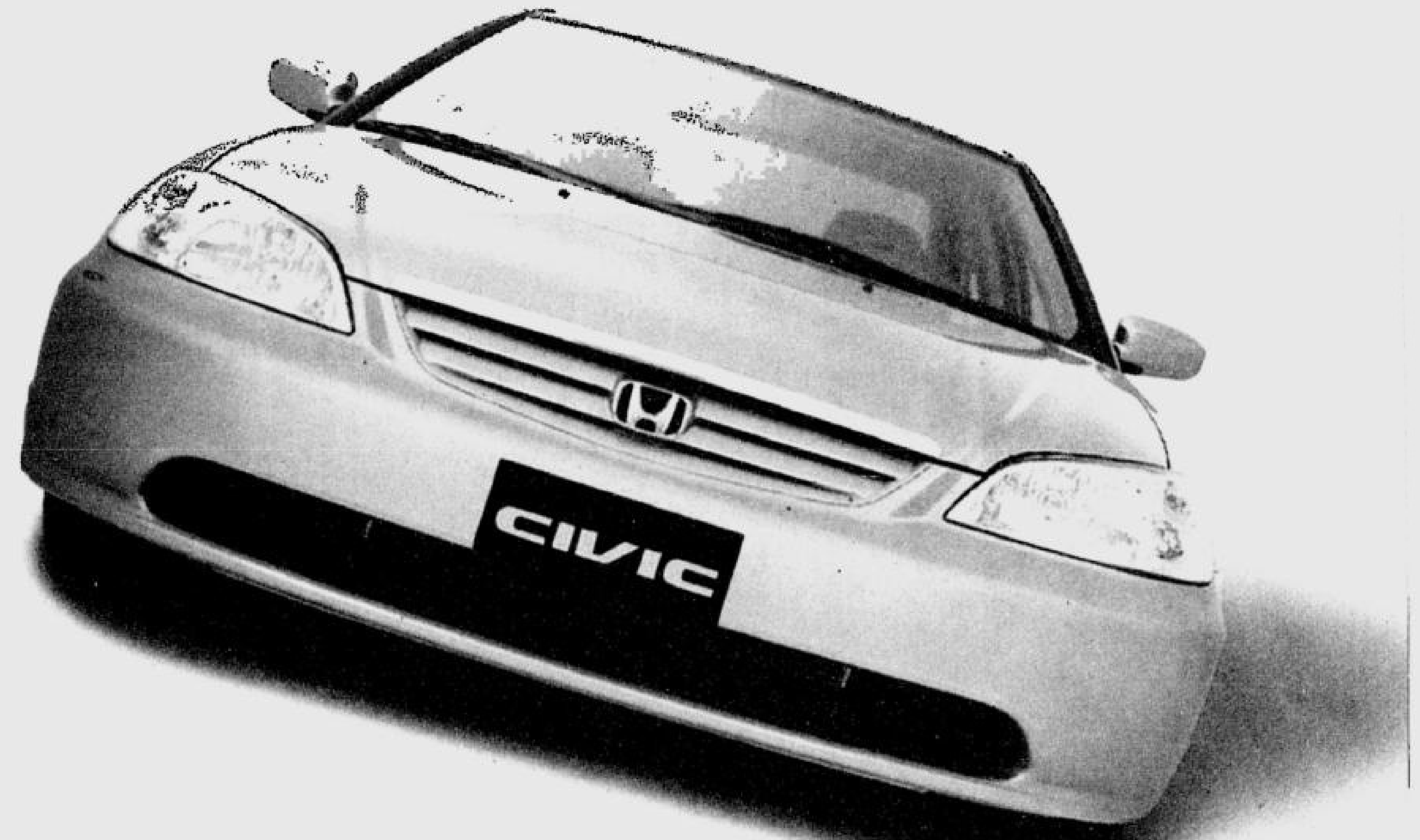
AN INVESTMENT in a new property venture being set up by Belle Corp. is being eyed by SM Group member companies, not SM Prime Holdings itself, the Philippine retailer and mall developer said yesterday.

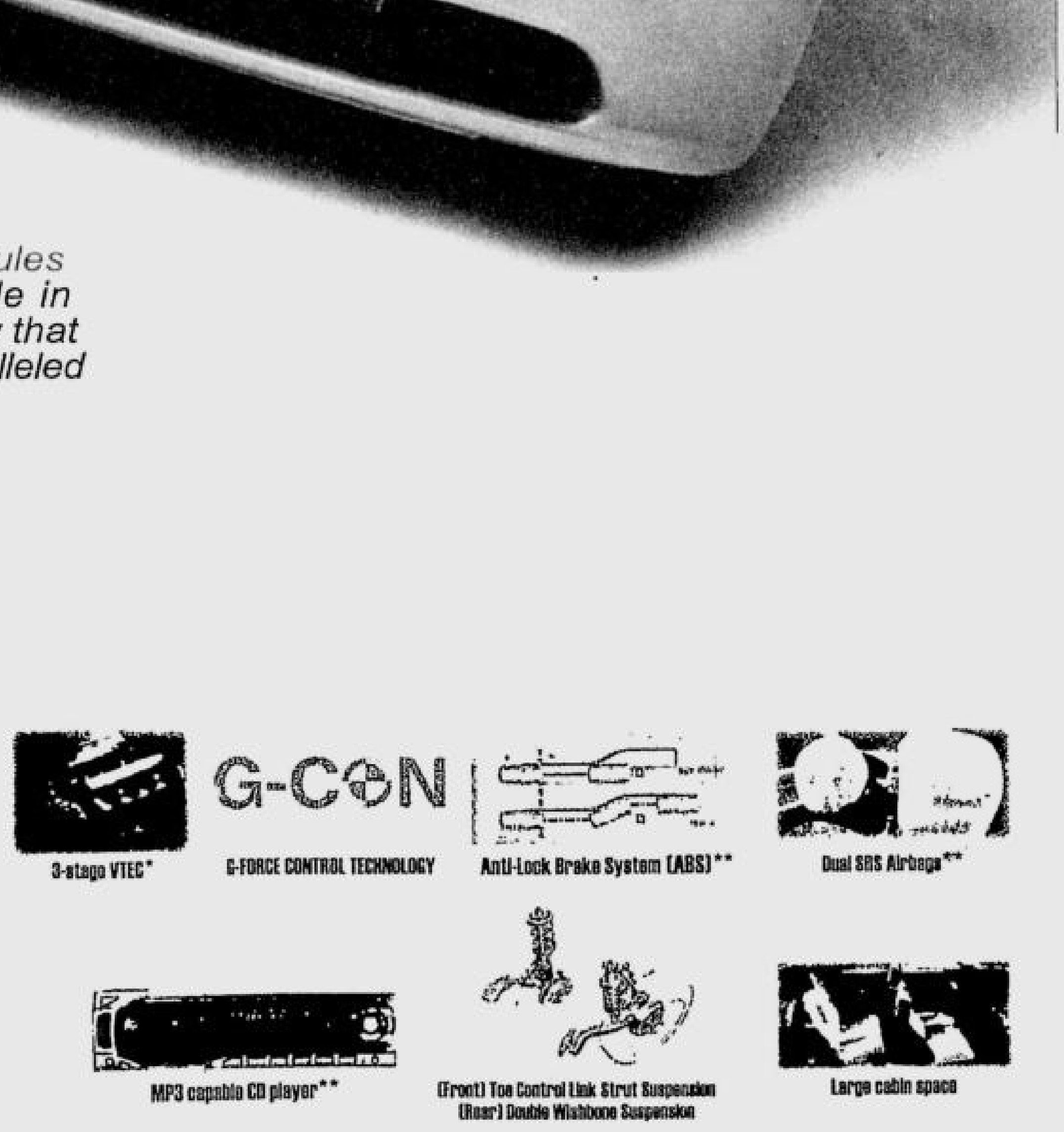
"SM Prime Holdings is not involved in the investment or a planned joint venture with Belle Corp. The said investment and planned joint venture is being undertaken by the other member companies of the SM group," SM Prime said in a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange.

The disclosure did not elaborate further.

On Monday, Belle said it was spinning off some of its major property assets into a new subsidiary and would be seeking strategic investors for the business.

One report named SM Prime as the firm seeking to become a strategic investor and to forge a joint venture partnership with Belle. *Reuters*





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Honda Cars Kalookan, Inc. 509 EDSA, Balintawak, Kalookan City Tel. Nos. 365-5701 to 24 Fax 361-6445
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DEBT RELIEF

Philcom nears deal with banks

By Doris C. Dumlao

BLEEDING telecommunications firm Philippine Global Communications Inc. (Philcom) is nearing a major breakthrough in the much-delayed restructuring of its P3-billion debt.

Well-placed sources yesterday said the company was now drafting a debt-restructuring agreement involving Philcom's International Gateway Facility (IGF) unit, which has the license to operate long-distance telephone services. The IGF debt accounts for around half of the company's total debt.

The other half of company debts consisted of obligations incurred by the company's local exchange carrier (LEC) division.

Among the company's major creditor-banks, to which the company owes 50 to 60 percent of its total debts, are Bank of the Philippine Islands, Equitable PCI Bank, China Banking Corp. and Metropolitan Bank and Trust Co.

The sources said the target was to finalize the restructuring deal, at least for the IGF, by the third quarter of the year. The remaining debts, they said, were still under negotiation but creditors have become more cooperative now that the ownership squabble within property and gaming firm Belle Corp., Philcom's parent company, had been settled.

"It's still in the process but we're close to certain milestones that would benefit the company in terms of giving some breathing space," one of the sources involved in the negotiations said.

The source noted that Philcom's financial advisers were looking at a deal that would stretch out the maturity of the company's debts, some of which were due this year, by another five to seven years.

Another source noted that Philcom's debt restructuring, which was stalled in 1999 when the row between the groups of former Trade Minister Roberto Ongpin and the other APC shareholders led by stockbroker Willy Ocier erupted, would pave the way for the rehabilitation of the bleeding company.

Once the debt restructuring deal had been finalized, the source said Philcom would be able to take in a strategic partner to enhance its competitive footing in the capital intensive telecom sector within the next two to three years.

The sources also said the company was working to finalize a long-delayed deal with unsecured bank creditors involving some P800 million in debts. The rest of the company's obligations are secured.

Philcom has already entered into a memorandum of agreement with the unsecured creditors to restructure the short-term loans in 1999 but sources said it was not implemented because of the shareholder dispute. As such, Philcom is back on the negotiating table to wrap up the deal.

Based on the 1999 agreement, the terms of the restructuring with the unsecured creditors include the provision of additional collateral to short-term lenders in exchange for the conversion of the obligations to five-year term loans. Philcom had proposed, subject to the written consent of the long-term lenders, to provide short-term creditors with additional mortgage participation certificates based on the surplus value of an existing mortgage trust indenture. In the event of a shortfall, Philcom offered to provide further credit enhancements such as a deed of assignment on Philcom's foreign and local receivables.

Aside from the short-term loans, Philcom was also negotiating with its long-term creditors such as Nissho Iwai for a $22-million loan and with a syndicate of local banks for another $22 million for a waiver on certain financial ratios required under the loan covenants.

Philcom is one of the country's leading providers of international long distance services but its financial results weakened due partly to the Asian currency crisis, which caused its interest payments on mostly dollar-denominated loans to spiral. Belle Corp., which owns 40 percent of Philcom through subsidiary APC Group Inc., had been planning to sell its stake to a strategic partner to concentrate its resources on property and gaming.

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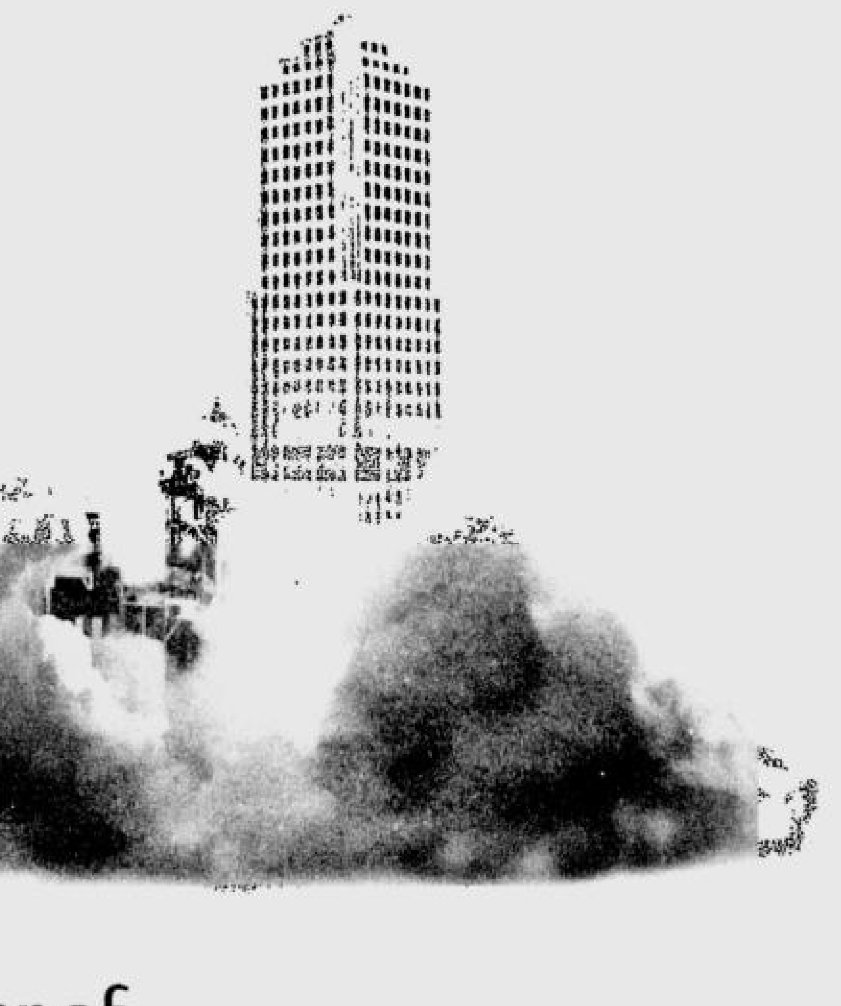

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9.00 a.m.
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9.20 a.m.
"The Importance in Deploying Directory Services"
10.00 a.m.
"Novell eProvisioning Solutions"
10.40 a.m.
Tea Break
11.15 a.m.
"Desktop and Server Management Solutions"
Live Demonstrations
Question & Answer Session
12.15 p.m.
Lunch
1.30 p.m.
Ends

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Philippine Stock Exchange

(As of Tuesday, April 24, 2001)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Asiatrust Dev. Bank Inc.	6	6	6	6	18,000
Bank of the Phil. Islands	76	76	74	74.5	375,900
China Banking Corp.	600	600	600	600	30
Chinatrust Comm. Bank	16	16	16	16	2,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	43.5	43.5	42	42	57,700
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	212	213	211	213	49,400
Philippine National Bank	43.5	44	43.5	44	16,900
Phil. Savings Bank	30	30	30	30	3,000
Security Bank Corp.	19	19.25	19	19	32,100
Union Bank of the Phil.	26.5	26.5	26.5	26.5	300
FINANCIAL SERVICE					
First Metro Invest. Corp.	220	250	220	250	60
Manulife Financial Corp.	1245	1250	1245	1250	4,130
Sun Life Financial Serv.	980	980	955	970	10,410
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	39	39	38.5	38.5	35,200
Digital Telecom Phils. Inc.	0.43	0.43	0.42	0.42	500,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	650	650	650	650	20
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.042	0.042	0.042	0.042	500,000
Piltel	0.49	0.49	0.49	0.49	30,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	675	695	675	690	34,350
Ivantage Corp.	0.93	0.93	0.93	0.93	10,000
Philweb.Com Inc.	0.045	0.045	0.043	0.045	114,900,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	41	43	41	42.5	35,300
Manila Electric Co. B	54	56	53.5	55.5	743,000
Petron Corp.	1.84	1.86	1.84	1.86	500,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	1.08	1.08	1.08	1.08	500,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	1.38	1.38	1.34	1.36	4,823,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Union Cement Corp.	1.02	1.02	1	1	70,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	2.08	2.08	2.08	2.08	10,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	13	13.5	13	13.5	446,200
La Tondeña Distillers Inc.	30.5	30.5	30	30	407,600
RFM Corp.	0.9	0.9	0.86	0.86	5,340,000
San Miguel Corp. A	46	46	46	46	3,800
San Miguel Corp. B	51	51	51	51	25,300
Vitarich Corp.	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	230,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Ayala Corp.	7.6	7.8	7.6	7.7	2,230,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	1.2	1.2	1.18	1.2	2,943,000
Alliance Global Group Inc.	12	12.25	12	12.25	1,600
A. Soriano Corp.	0.27	0.28	0.27	0.28	3,850,000
Balabac Resources & Hldgs.	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	50,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	1.5	1.58	1.48	1.58	7,190,000
Basic Consolidated Inc.	0.14	0.14	0.14	0.14	500,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	1,190,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	1	1.04	1	1.04	899,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	22.75	23.5	22.75	23.25	150,700
Global Equities Inc.	0.24	0.24	0.24	0.24	200,000
House of Investments Inc.	0.78	0.8	0.78	0.8	30,000
Ionics Inc.	13	13.25	13	13	36,500
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	1.92	1.92	1.88	1.9	359,000
Megaworld Corp.	0.8	0.8	0.78	0.8	3,310,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.49	0.49	0.47	0.48	920,000
Philtread Holdings Corp.	4	4	4	4	778,000
Philtread Hdgs. Corp. B	4	4	4	4	260,000
Solid Group Inc.	0.43	0.45	0.43	0.45	5,090,000
Unioil Res. & Holdings Co.	0.07	0.07	0.07	0.07	100,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.27	0.28	0.26	0.27	2,470,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.26	0.27	0.26	0.27	1,220,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Active Alliance Inc.	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	20,000
Music Corp.	2.6	2.6	2.55	2.55	29,000
Mabuhay Vinyl Corp.	0.62	0.62	0.61	0.61	50,000
Central Azucar Don Pedro	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	20,000
SPI Technologies Inc.	13	13.5	13	13.25	47,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICE					
Belle Corp.	0.51	0.51	0.5	0.5	1,250,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.52	0.52	0.52	0.52	150,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	20,000
Manila Jockey Club	20	20	20	20	13,400
Premiere Ent. Prod. Inc.	0.24	0.24	0.24	0.24	400,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	38.5	39	38	38	196,600
Globe Telecom Hldg. (Pdr)	670	670	670	670	1,000
Jollibee Warrants	12.75	13.25	12.75	13.25	235,000
Omico Corp. Warrant	0.0026	0.0026	0.0026	0.0026	20,000,000
PLDT (10% Pref.) Series U	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	1,700
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	5.6	5.8	5.6	5.8	3,916,000
C & P Homes Inc.	0.25	0.26	0.25	0.25	1,130,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.33	0.34	0.33	0.34	3,130,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	2.04	2.1	2.04	2.1	8,048,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	0.2	0.2	0.18	0.18	100,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.39	0.39	0.39	0.39	100,000
MRC Allied Ind. Inc.	0.42	0.42	0.42	0.42	20,000
Phil Realty and Holdings	0.11	0.11	0.11	0.11	2,000,000
SM Development Corp.	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	100,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	6.7	7	6.7	6.9	5,371,000
MINING					
Apex Mining Co. Inc B	0.006	0.006	0.006	0.006	1,000,000
Benguet Corp. B	1.8	1.8	1.8	1.8	5,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.0055	0.0055	0.0055	0.0055	5,000,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.006	0.006	0.006	0.006	20,000,000
Polar Mines & Dev't Corp.	0.014	0.014	0.014	0.014	5,100,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	0.17	0.17	0.17	0.17	70,000
OIL					
Imperial Res.	0.023	0.023	0.023	0.023	100,000
Interport Res.	0.0044	0.0044	0.0044	0.0044	1,000,000
Oriental Pet & Min. B	0.0042	0.0042	0.0042	0.0042	2,000,000

CURRENCIES

April 24, 2001

Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Foreign currency in US$	Foreign currency in Peso
United States	Dollar	1.113090	1.000000	50.4410
Japan	Yen	0.009183	0.008250	0.4103
United Kingdom	Pound	1.603963	1.441000	72.6855
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.142718	0.128218	6.4674
Switzerland	Franc	0.653528	0.587130	29.6154
Canada	Dollar	0.718493	0.645494	32.5594
Singapore	Dollar	0.615954	0.553373	27.9127
Australia	Dollar	0.563219	0.505996	25.5229
Bahrain	Dinar	2.952650	2.652661	133.8029
Kuwait	Dinar	N/A	N/A	N/A
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.296817	0.266660	13.4506
Brunei	Dollar	0.612093	0.549904	27.7377
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000093	0.000084	0.0042
Thailand	Baht	0.024501	0.022012	1.1103
UAE	Dirham	0.303071	0.272279	13.7340
Korea	Won	0.000848	0.000762	0.0384
Euro	Euro	1.000000	0.898400	45.3162
Germany	Mark	0.511292	0.459345	23.1698
France	Franc	0.152450	0.136960	6.9084
Netherlands	Guilder	0.453780	0.407676	20.5636
Austria	Schilling	0.072673	0.065289	3.2932
Belgium	Franc	0.024790	0.022271	1.1234
Italy	Lire	0.000516	0.000464	0.0234
Finland	Markka	0.168188	0.151100	7.6216
Portugal	Escudo	0.004988	0.004481	0.2260
Spain	Peseta	0.006010	0.005399	0.2723
Luxemburg	Franc	0.024790	0.022271	1.1234
Ireland	Punt	1.269738	1.140733	57.5397

DISCLOSURES

PHILTREAD Holdings Corp. postponed to July 2 its annual stockholders' meeting after a failure to constitute a quorum on the date stated in its by-laws.

* * *

SPI Technologies Inc. will hold its analysts'/investors' briefing on April 27, 3:30 p.m. at the Garcia Villa Room of the Hotel Peninsula Manila.

* * *

ELECTED directors of **Philippine Savings Bank** were Renato Valencia, Jerry Angping, Arthur Ty, Filemon Uriarte, George Lee, Daniel Laogan, Soledad Dolor, Danilo Dolor, Alfredo Barreto, Edmundo Villano and Joey Bermudez.

* * *

CROWN Equities Inc. disclosed the resignation of Gabriel Tong as director of the company.

* * *

Mabuhay Vinyl Corp. announced the resignation of Itsuro Eguchi as member of the company's board and the election of Akihisha Nishina to replace Eguchi.

* * *

ELECTED directors of **Trans-Asia Oil and Energy Development Corp.** were Ramon del Rosario, Oscar Hilado, Antonio del Rosario, Alfredo Velayo, Raymundo Feliciano, Magdaleno Albarracin Jr., Ernesto Caluya, Epifania Godinez, Reynaldo Paulino, Ricardo Camua and Francisco Viray.

* * *

UNION Bank of the Philippines declared a P0.16 per share cash dividend in favor of stockholders of record as of May 8 and shall be payable on June 4.

Compiled by Maricar D. Tolosa, PDI Research

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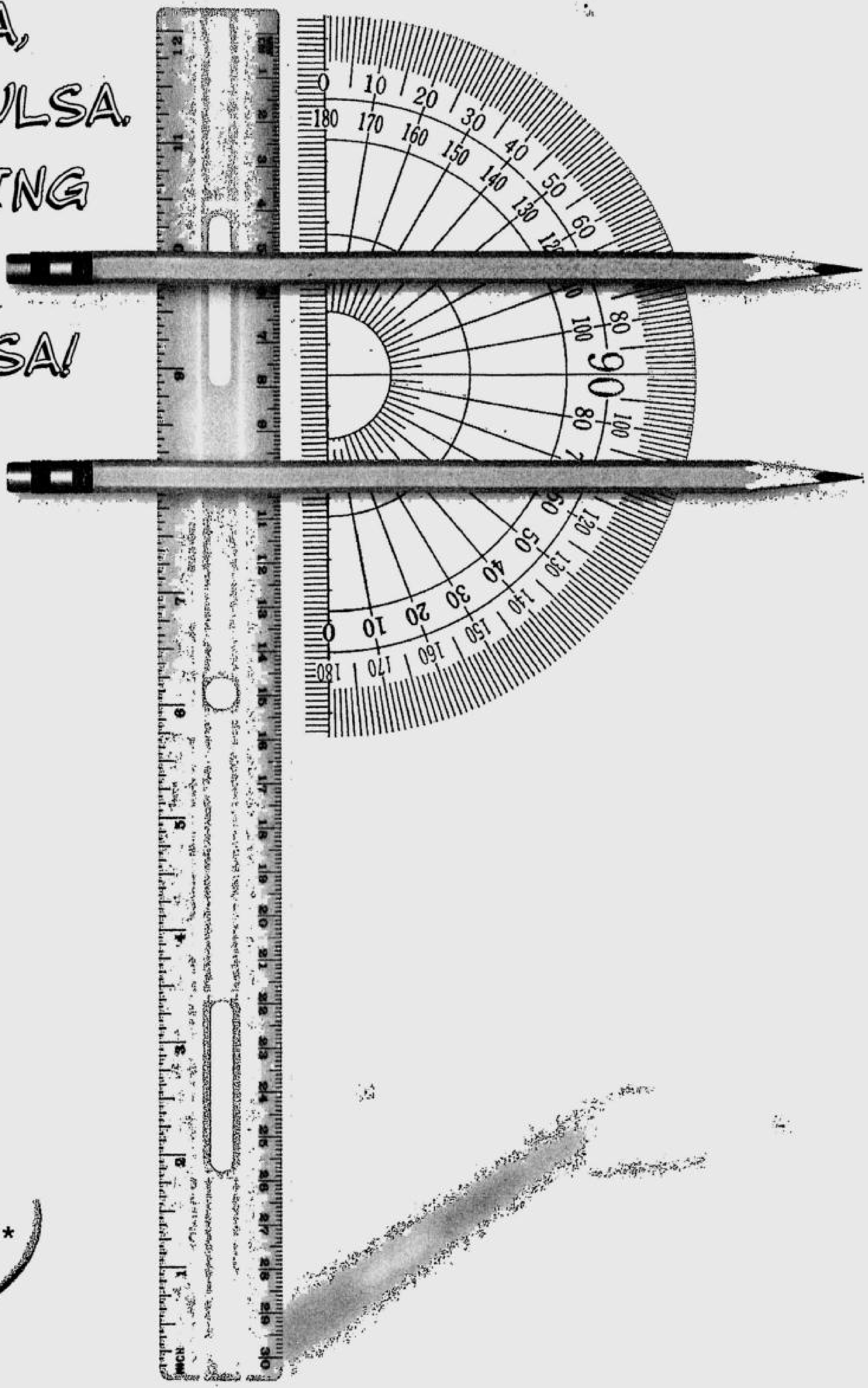

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Maturing MRT debts to cost gov't ₱3.43B, DOF reports

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE GOVERNMENT is seen shelling out some P3.43 billion this year to settle maturing sovereign-backed obligations of Metro Rail Transit Corp.

Documents from the Department of Finance show that payments to creditors of Metro Rail Transit comprise the single biggest item in the list of maturing obligations that the government has guaranteed. These debts amount to around P12 billion.

Out of Metro Rail Transit's P3.43 billion in maturing obligations, P2.352 billion represent the principal amount while P1.08 billion are interests on a $660-million loan the corporation acquired with backing from the government.

Finance Secretary Alberto Romulo told reporters that out of the P12.03 billion in maturing sovereign-backed obligations, some P10.38 billion were already included in the government's projected P145-billion budget deficit this year.

Three big-ticket items with government-backed debts set to mature this year are power projects.

The San Roque multi-purpose hydroelectric and irrigation project account for P2.949 billion of the total followed by the Casecnan hydroelectric project with a maturing P1.685 billion in loans this year. Both projects are being monitored by the National Power Corp.

The National Electrification Administration accounts for P860 million of the total.

The Philippine National Railways and Light Railway Transit Authority have P491 million and P367 million in maturing obligations this year.

Romulo said in the next 20 years, sovereign-backed loans would cost about P600 billion.

Analysts said the rising level of expiring sovereign guarantees would make it even more difficult for the government to implement fiscal discipline and achieve a balanced budget in the coming years.

Romulo said a review of existing laws on guarantees was already being done to determine whether the government could still afford to grant sovereign guarantees or whether it should stop now.

Meat processors seek 50% cut in beef duties

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

THE COUNTRY'S biggest meat processors and burger chains will ask Malacañang to cut duties on pork and beef by half to lower their costs and cope with the weak demand due to the mad cow and foot and mouth disease (FMD) scare.

The Philippine Association of Meat Processors Inc.'s petition to cut duties on beef from 10 percent to 5 percent and pork from 30 percent to 15 percent came on the heels of President Macapagal-Arroyo's decision to slash duties on live cattle from 7 percent to 3 percent.

Pampi is made up of 38 meat processors in the country led by Purefoods Corp. , Swifts Foods Corp., and CDO as well as fast-food leaders Jollibee Foods Corp., McDonalds Foods Corp., and Burger King.

Pampi executive director Francisco Buencamino said the group would firm up the details of its petition with its members. Pampi is expected to submit its formal petition by next week.

Buencamino said Pampi was optimistic that the government would be sympathetic to their plight considering the favorable decision on the petition of Cattle Feedlot Association of the Philippines for lower duties.

UNIONBANK
OF THE PHILIPPINES
NOTICE TO ALL STOCKHOLDERS

April 19, 2001

Dear **Stockholders:**

Please be informed that the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas ("BSP") has approved the cash dividend declaration of UnionBank of the Philippines ("UBP") which is equivalent to sixteen (P0.16) centavos per share or an amount equivalent to P88,199,354.44 to shareholders of the Bank based on stockholdings as of December 31, 2000 and payable from the retained earnings of the Bank as of December 31, 1997.

Accordingly, your Board of Directors has approved the setting of record date for stockholders entitled to such dividends to be on **May 8, 2001.** Payment date will be on June 4, 2001.

For your information. Thank you.

Very truly yours,

(Sgd.) ATTY. FE T. BECINA-MACALINO
Corporate Secretary

US slowdown to hit banana exports

By Jowel F. Canuday
PDI Mindanao Bureau

DAVAO CITY—The Department of Trade and Industry is bracing for a possible slump in banana exports this year due to the economic slowdown in Japan and the United States.

DTI regional director Merly Cruz said Japan and the United States comprise the bulk of the export market in banana, thus, a slump in the demand from these countries will have a significant impact on the industry and the regional economy.

"We are anticipating a slowdown especially in our fresh Cavendish banana exports. Banana is one of the biggest contributors in the region's export revenues. The decline in the demand will affect the growth in our economy," she said.

Banana contributes only about 3 percent of the country's export earnings but it comprises about 60 percent of the income generated from exports in Southern Mindanao.

The banana industry rakes in an average of $800 million in annual revenues and employs some 8,000 people, according to the DTI.

Cruz said the banana industry showed steady growth in the past 10 years as plantations have consistently expanded while demands increased and new markets opened.

But Cruz said there will likely be a reversal this year if no preparations are done to address the possible decline in the demand from Japan and the US.

Cruz said the country's banana exports face stiff competition from other banana producing and exporting countries in South America.

Cruz said the peak season of other export fruit products also competes with banana.

Cruz, however, expressed confidence that the players in the banana sector are already strong enough to weather the crisis since they have long organized into a strong "industry cluster" through the Philippine Banana Growers and Exporters Association (PBGEA).

She said PBGEA has been instrumental in improving the competitiveness of the banana industry and in setting more competitive prices in the international market.

Cruz said the opening of new markets in China during the past two years will likely help them recover from the anticipated losses in Japan and the US.

BSP to crack down on insider lending

THE BANGKO Sentral ng Pilipinas said yesterday it would release soon three circulars that would strengthen regulations against "insider lending" and help prevent abuses of bank owners and officials.

BSP Governor Rafael Buenaventura said the central bank was determined to raise the standards of banks operating locally to avert future disasters and bank failures caused by abuses of people who run banks.

"When you analyze it, most of our recent bank failures and near failures can ultimately be traced to insider abuse," Buenaventura said.

One of the country's top lender, Urban Bank Inc., went belly up last year due to a decision by its owners to transfer some P4 billion worth of "trash receivables" from Urban Bank to its debt-laded investment arm, Urbancorp Investment Inc.

A near-failure was Equitable PCI Bank Inc., the country's third largest bank, which experienced heavy withdrawals after it was linked to an alleged money laundering scam involving ousted President Joseph Estrada.

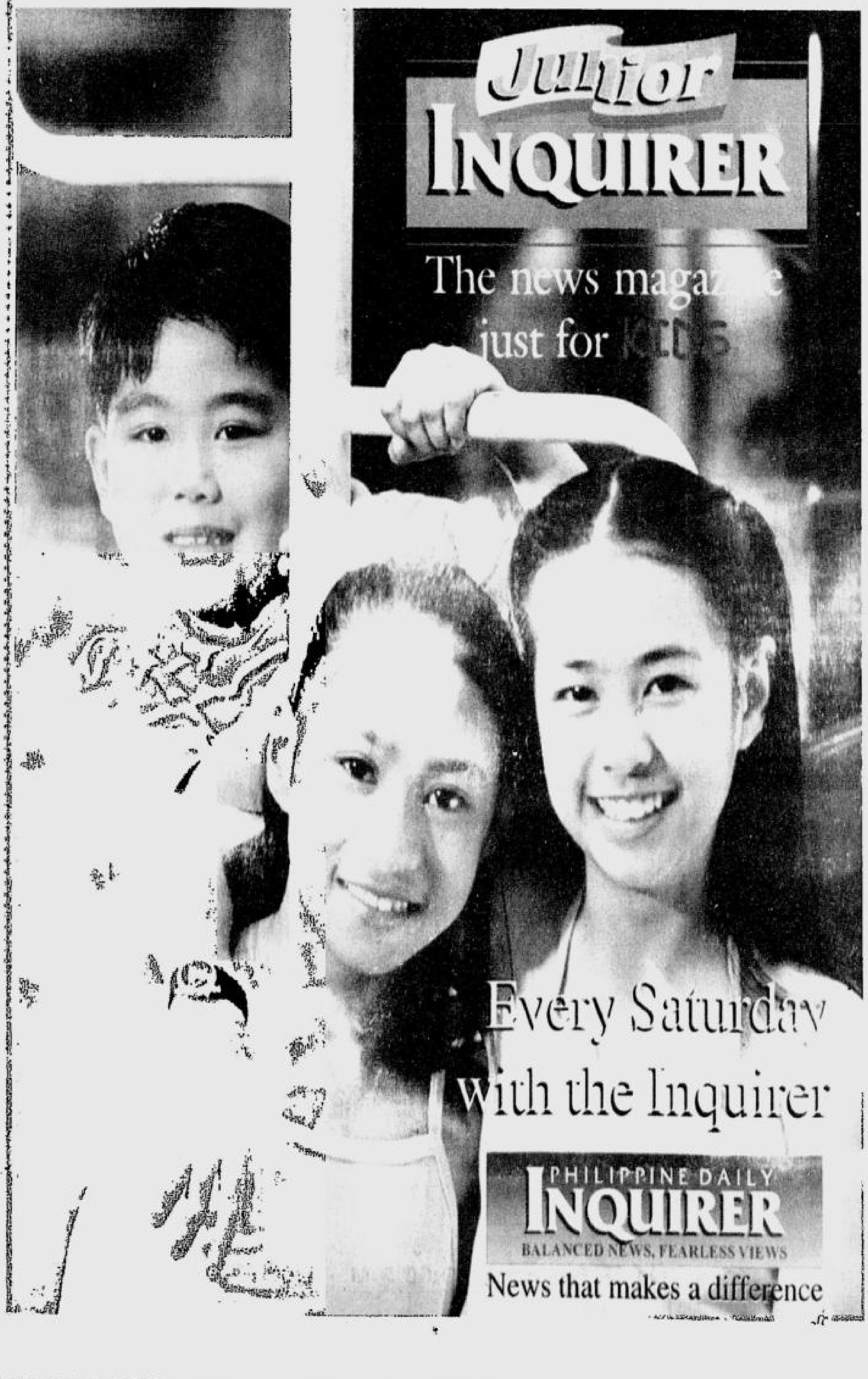
Buenaventura said the central bank would soon issue new rules defining clearly the duties and responsibilities of bank directors.

He said this would be backed by the strict implementation of the "fit-and-proper" rule on bank directors and officers under the new General Banking Law.

"The new law has also provided us the legal basis to issue strengthened regulations on Dosri (directors, officers, shareholders and related interests) loans and the single borrowers limit. Both regulations are also in the pipeline," Buenaventura told reporters.

The central bank currently allows banks to lend only 15 percent of its capital to their directors, officers, shareholders and related interests. It also limits to 25 percent of its capital loans to a single borrower.

Most failed banks were found to have violated the Dosri loan limit, extending too much of their portfolios to their owners or shareholders who, in turn, were unable to pay these debts.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The news magazine just for KIDS
Every Saturday with the Inquirer
PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS
News that makes a difference

RP recovery seen spurring growth in telecom industry

By Tina Arceo-Dumlao

SINGAPORE—Nera Telecommunications Ltd., one of the leading providers of wireless communication equipment in the Philippines, has estimated that the telecommunications industry will continue to grow at a fast clip with expectations of better economic growth.

Samuel Ang, Nera president and chief executive, told the INQUIRER the considerable growth in the local telecommunications industry will continue over the next few years as companies make up for the slack in expansion during the Asian crisis.

"There has been a big rollout by telecommunications companies in the last year alone compared to the last two years. We expect this growth to continue because of the slack. It is an exciting market," Ang said.

Nera currently supplies the interconnection equipment requirements of cellular companies such as Smart Communications and Globe Telecom GMCR Inc. and the satellite requirements of Philippine Communication Satellite Corp.

Nera competes locally with Alcatel, Siemens, NEC and Fujitsu.

Nera supplies the wireless interconnection equipment for the bay stations of companies such as Lucent Technologies.

Ang said he expected the demand for wireless interconnection equipment would increase as there is still room to grow in the cellular phone market.

"We expect that the Philippines will be one of the biggest growth areas in the region for Nera compared to Thailand, Malaysia and Indonesia," Ang explained.

Nera is a listed company in Singapore that provides a range of products and services from satellite communications, microwave radio transmission, to information technology, networking infrastructure and high-end electronics contract manufacturing.

It is a strategic partner of Norway's Nera ASA and has operations in Singapore, Malaysia, Thailand, Indonesia, the Philippines, Vietnam, Brunei, Laos, Cambodia and Myanmar.

It also markets in Taiwan and Korea through its Singapore headquarters.

Subic employment up 300%

SUBIC BAY FREEPORT—Employment here rose by 300 percent for the first quarter of 2001 compared to the same period last year, showing a resurgence of investors' confidence in the country, Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority officials said.

The SBMA labor center reported that from January to March, 5,626 workers were hired by various business locators, compared to only 1,891 workers last year.

SBMA Chair Felicito Payumo attributed the increase in number of workers to the opening of new manufacturing plants and expansion projects of various companies at the freeport.

These new firms include two major Japanese manufacturers, Juken Sangyo and Sanyo Denki, and Yi-Phone, Catcher Electronics, Comoss (Subic) and the Subic Bay Marine Exploratorium.

Companies undergoing expansion such as Brand Rex Cables, Aparri Electronics, Koryo Subic, and Delta Faucet have also requested the hiring of additional workers for the first three months of the year.

Aside from workers hired by locators, 8,039 workers were employed by companies engaged in manpower services in the freeport, the SBMA labor center said.

These workers included port stevedores, construction workers and landscapers.

The total workforce hired by business locators here has reached 35,021 while the SBMA and its subsidiary, the Freeport Service Corp. (FSC), maintain 4,233 employees.

Records from the SBMA labor department showed that Olongapo City supplied the most number of the workers with a 50-percent share, followed by Bataan with 19 percent, Zambales with 16 percent, Pampanga with 15 percent and Metro Manila with 12 percent. ***Elizabeth Marcelo, PDI Central Luzon Desk***

Vistan seen heading Equitable

THE BANGKO Sentral ng Pilipinas is pushing for the appointment of banker Deogracias Vistan as president of Equitable PCI Bank Inc., according to persons familiar with the matter.

Vistan, former president of the Bankers Association of the Philippines, was reportedly one of two persons in the common slate of directors endorsed by the government and the Go family, which owns 31 percent of Equitable PCI Bank.

The Go family, however, junked Vistan during Equitable PCI Bank's stockholders' meeting last week, one source said.

The Presidential Commission on Good Government earlier appointed Vistan as chair of United Coconut Planters Bank, but ownership problems involving sequestered shares of the bank were said to have prompted Vistan to reconsider this appointment.

One source said Vistan, who once sat in the 15-man board of Equitable PCI Bank, was being groomed to replace acting Equitable PCI Bank president Edilberto Javier.

The central bank is reportedly seeking a revamp of Equitable PCI Bank's board and management team, and has recommended the appointment of seasoned bankers like Vistan.

The BSP is pressing Equitable PCI Bank to raise its capital by as much as P10 billion.

The bank said earlier it would offer P5 billion to P10 billion worth of convertible bonds to its shareholders in line with its capital build-up program.

The capital infusion will be implemented by way of convertible bonds to be made available to current shareholders. Details of the bond issue have yet to be firmed up.

Equitable PCI Bank suffered a blow in its bid to secure itself financially after the Government Service Insurance System threatened not to help it recapitalize.

The bank is trying to build its capital base after suffering heavy withdrawals last year due to allegations during the impeachment trial of former President Joseph Estrada that the bank had been used to maintain some of Estrada's secret accounts.

Gov't economic team disputes findings of foreign rating firm

BY CLARISSA S. BATINO

THE MACAPAGAL administration will formally ask Moody's Investors Service to reconsider its retention of a negative outlook for the Philippines, pointing to its achievements in restoring political and economic stability in the country.

Finance Secretary Alberto Romulo said the judgment of the New York-based credit rating firm that a re-emerging political uncertainty clouded the country's ability to bounce back from the crisis was unfair and baseless.

"They could be misinformed because there is political stability and confidence in the government as recognized by all countries. We would advise them to change their opinion," the finance chief said.

The decision of Moody's to retain its negative outlook for the Philippines in a recent annual report was seen to affect the pricing of impending foreign loans by the national government and could hinder a quick restoration of investor confidence in the country.

Spreads on the government's eight- and 10-year bonds had widened by 10 basis points after the release of Moody's report, effectively raising the government's cost of servicing these debts.

Moody's said political uncertainties, declining economic fundamentals, and worsening regional conditions continued to place downward pressure on the outlook for the Philippines.

The foreign credit-rating firm also said it saw no significant growth, no immediate recovery in the fiscal position, and no dramatic rebound in investor confidence in the Philippines.

Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Governor Rafael Buenaventura has also expressed disappointment with Moody's judgment in citing political uncertainties as a factor in retaining the negative outlook.

It was not clear, according to Buenaventura, what events or issues Moody's could have used to come up with its conclusion that political uncertainties were re-emerging.

The restoration of political stability, Romulo and Buenaventura said, was the first achievement of the Macapagal administration.

The finance chief said a 13-0 decision of the Supreme Court that upheld the legitimacy of the Macapagal regime as well as the recognition by Congress that a new administration was in place had immediately brought back political balance.

The finance chief also cited a lower-than-programmed budget deficit of P38.9 billion in the first quarter as an economic achievement of the Macapagal administration.

While the budget gap in the first three months was 79 percent more than the P21.686 billion recorded in the same period last year, it was significantly less than the P48.55 billion projected for the first quarter of this year.

Romulo said he believed the lower deficit from January to March indicated good performance not only for the economic team but also for the new administration.

"The new government of President Macapagal-Arroyo has set a much more deliberate and responsible tone to policy-making but it faces considerable challenges due to structural, economic and political problems," said Moody's analyst Thomas Byrne in his report.

Moody's continued to rate the Philippines below investment grade or Ba1, similar to Standard & Poor's and IBCA Fitch ratings of BB+.

PERLA INSURANCE

PERLA COMPAÑIA DE SEGUROS, INC.
Synopsis of Annual Statement
As of 31 December 2000

ADMITTED ASSETS	
Bonds	₱ 145,928,644.90
Investment in Treasury Bills	250,470,000.00
Stocks	58,784,395.57
Real Estate	32,722,007.01
Mortgage Loans	1,680,000.00
Security Fund	140,167.00
Other Investments	1,160,000.00
Cash on Hand and in Banks	15,859,862.01
Premiums Receivable	724,530.34
Premiums Due From Ceding Cos.	26,391.74
Premium Reserve withheld by Ceding Cos.	201,217.86
RI Recoverable on Losses	4,530,610.10
Accrued Investment Income	3,883,678.46
Total Admitted Assets	**₱ 516,111,504.99**
LIABILITIES	
Losses and Claims Payable	₱ 88,616,158.23
Loss Adjustment Expenses Payable	5,852,623.60
Reserve for Unearned Premiums	54,607,392.96
Catastrophe Loss Reserve	45,467.27
Premiums Due to Reinsurers	6,271,167.63
Premiums Reserve withheld for Reinsurers	2,672,103.94
Commission Payable	1,851,383.81
Taxes Payable	3,398,579.74
Unearned Bond Discount	12,065,255.66
Other Liabilities	753,452.95
Total Liabilities	**₱ 176,133,585.79**
STOCKHOLDERS' EQUITY	
Capital Stock Paid-Up	₱ 100,000,000.00
Contributed Surplus	33,000.00
Special Surplus Funds:	
Fluctuation Reserve - Foreign Exchange	13,412,577.58
Retained Earnings	226,532,341.62
Total Stockholders' Equity	**₱ 339,977,919.20**
Total Liabilities and Stockholders' Equity	**₱ 516,111,504.99**

(This synopsis, prepared from the 2000 Annual Statement, approved by the Insurance Commissioner is published pursuant to Section 225 of the Insurance Code.)

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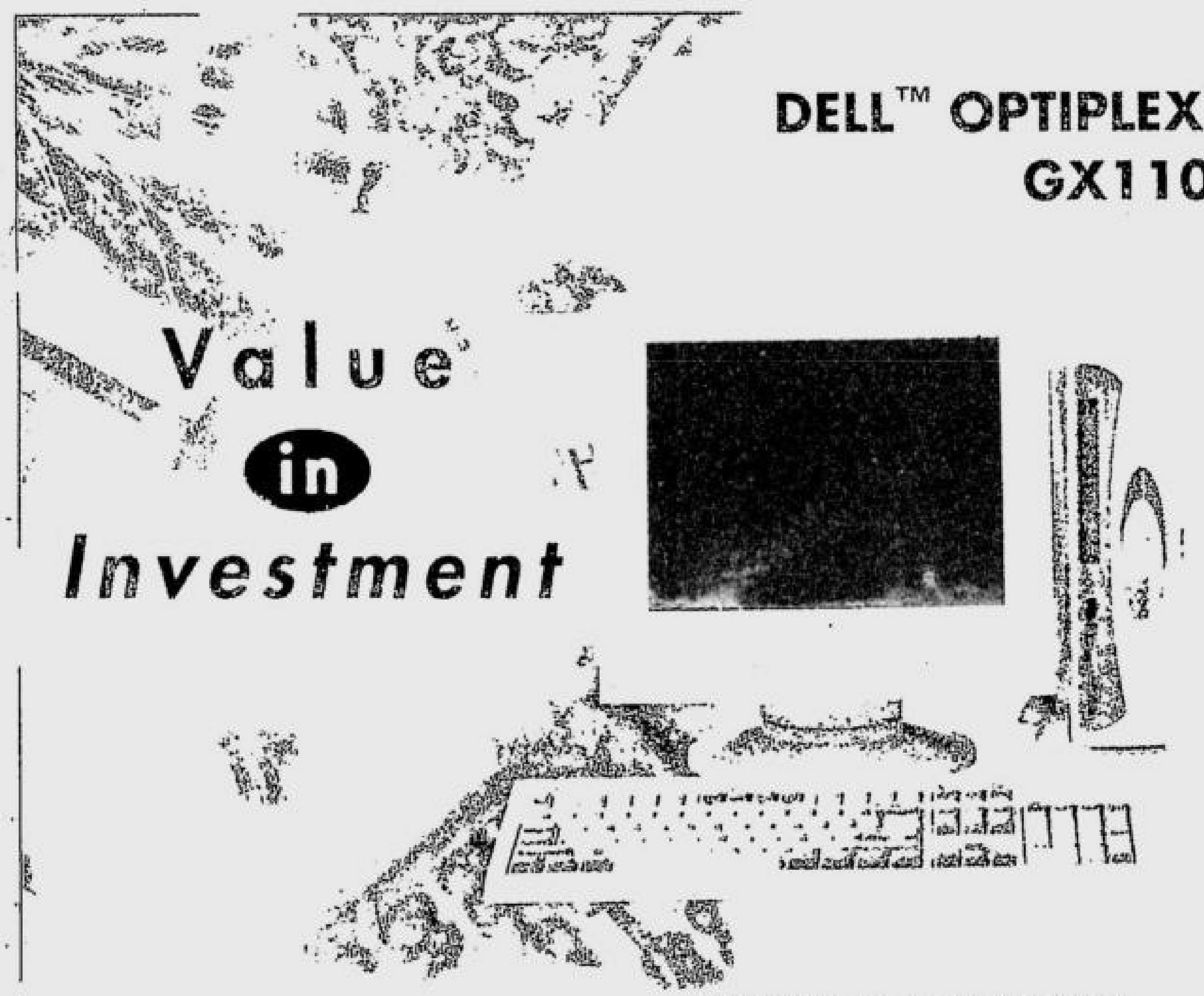
GX110L



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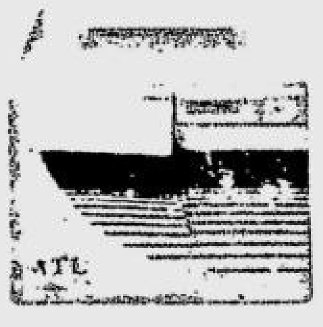
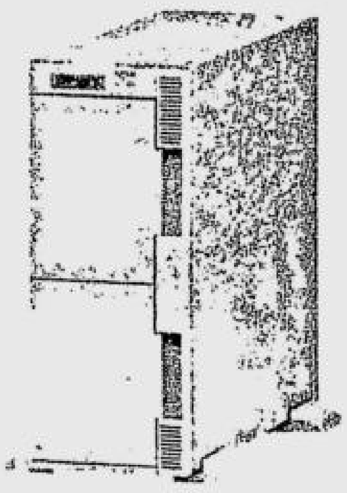
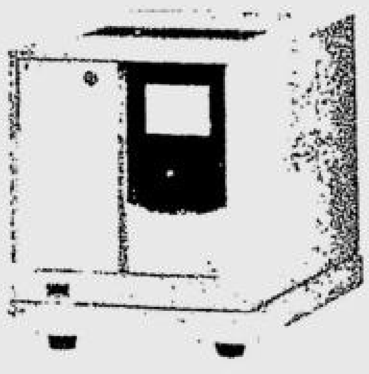
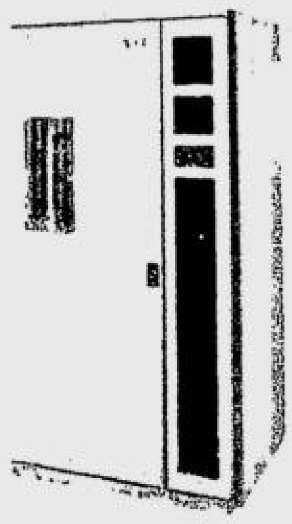
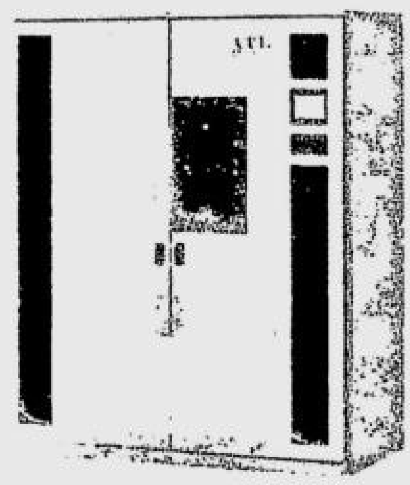
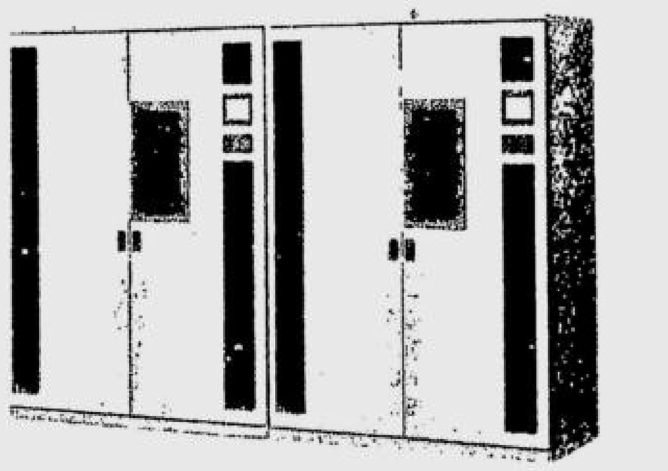

PowerStor L200 Series


PowerStor L500 Series


P1000 Series


P2000 Series


P3000 Series


P6000 Series

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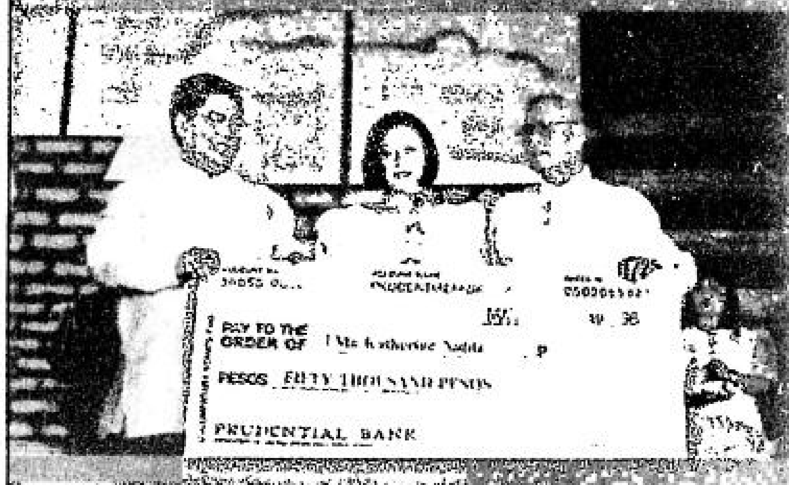
This year, Prudentialakbay unites with the nation in celebrating a new hope, stronger faith, and deeper pride in our country. Paying our tribute not only to the men and women of Prudentialife but the millions of heroes who courageously stood up and claimed their rightful claim to the Good Life!

Day 1: Opening Ceremonies

-Registration
-Parade Of Colors
-Fashion Showcase
-Entertainment

DAY 2: A Showcase Of Prudentialife Talents

-Prayer march from Edsa Shangri-La to the EDSA Shrine
-Holy Mass to be officiated by His Eminence Jaime L. Cardinal Sin
-Floral offering at the Holy Ground of Our Lady of Peace Shrine
-Sports Activities/Bingo Socials/Shopping at the malls
-Broadway Musicale



DAY 3: Grand Awards Night

-Tours around Manila
-Grand Awards Night
-All-night Party at the Isla Ballroom

All these and more to honor Prudentialife's gallant men and women who continue to uphold our vision of living the Good Life!

The Power of The Good Life

PRUDENTIALAKBAY 2001

EDSA
MANILA

APRIL 25-28, 2001

Natio
Sale
Olymp
Champ
200

Area Managers Consistency Awa

Diana T. Agco Estrellita C. Cardeño Emelita C. Crisostomo Rosalinda Z. Dichoso
Oscar J. Gonzalez, Jr. Rodolfo R. Guevarra Adelma T. Pasion Marilyn B. P

PRUDENTIALAKBAY GOES TO MANILA!

Now it's Manila's turn to play host to Prudentialife's Sales Olympics Champions!

Every year, Prudentialakbay holds the biggest reunion of the top achievers and qualifiers in marketing all over the country. The spotlight is on its men and women who have distinguished themselves as champions in the much-coveted Sales Olympics.

Espousing the theme "The Power of the Good Life", Prudentialakbay will be staged at the Edsa Shangri-La Plaza Hotel. Francisco A. Alba, President of the Prudential Life Plan Group, in his welcome message to the event's participants stated *"As co-builders of the nation for the past 23 years, it is but timely that we celebrate this year's theme right at the heart of EDSA, site of two peaceful revolutions through People and Prayer Power."*

Prudentialifers will hold a prayer march from Edsa Shangri-La Plaza to the Edsa Shrine of Our Lady of Peace, after which, a mass will be officiated by His Eminence Jaime L. Cardinal Sin.

After the mass, participants will offer flowers at the Shrine recently declared as Holy Ground. This is their own way of expressing gratitude to God for a year of bounty and grace despite the economic turmoil.

Included in the schedule of activities are: tour of Manila's well-known tourist spots such as the walled city of Intramuros; a fun MRT ride to let the participants get a glimpse of the whole metropolis; and shopping at the sprawling malls. The four-day event will be capped by the most-awaited Grand Awards night.

PRUDENTIALAKBAY VISION

Prudentialakbay was borne out of management's vision of nurturing a loyal, happy and hardworking group of sales people.

Since 1989, Prudentialife has been providing travel incentives for sales associates through Prudentialakbay--an annual all-expense paid extravaganza participated in by various regional delegates. The cream of the crop of around 200 top sellers are provided foreign travel and have visited Hong Kong, Macau, Malaysia, Singapore and Thailand.

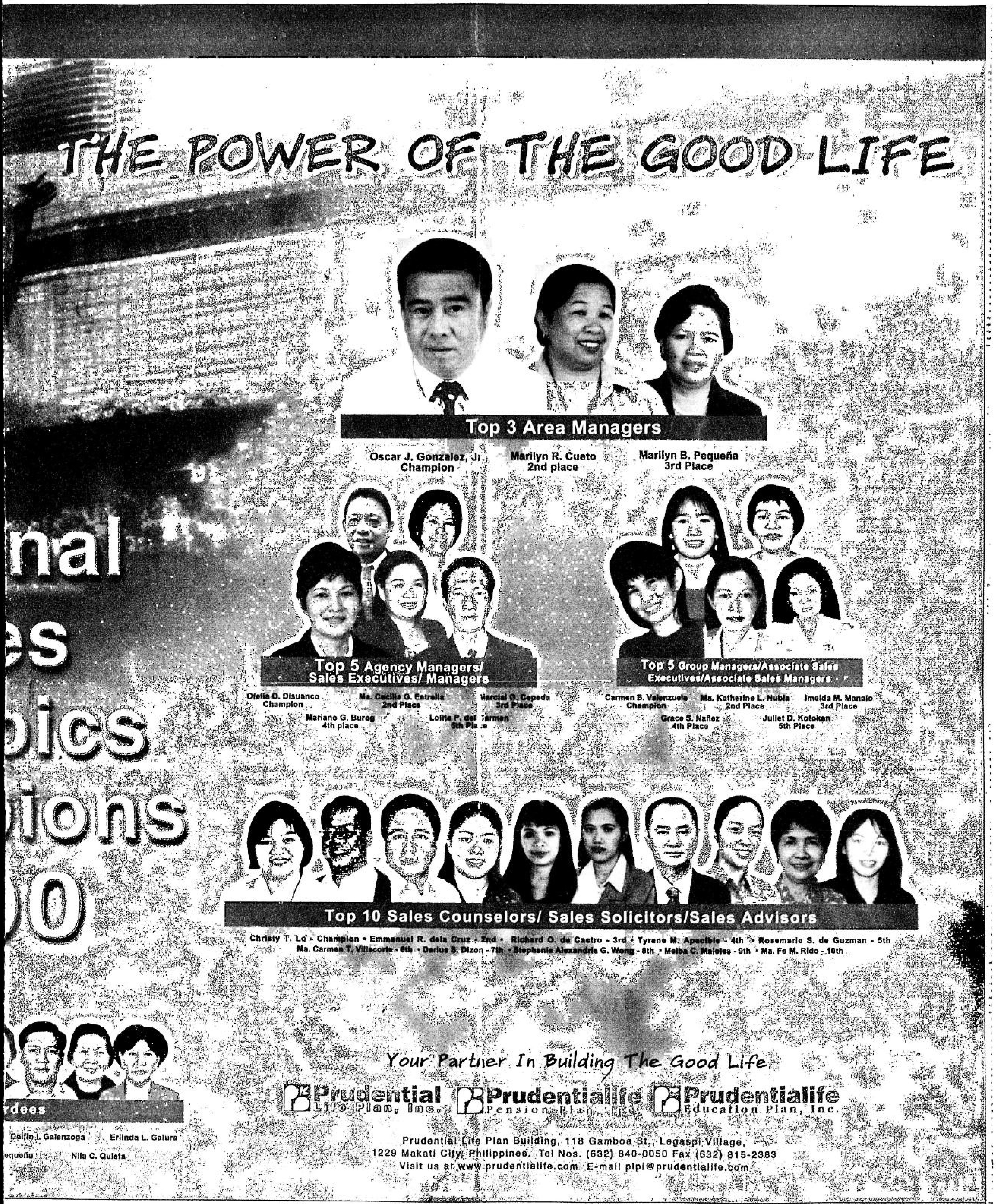
Says the Lakbay committee:*"We want to uplift our sales people's standards, educate them to the joys of the Good Life, and develop loyalty. Lakbay plays a major role in their future with the company. We are one huge family."*

The choice of travel as an incentive was deliberate. "*Travel is the most sought-after incentive in any big organization*" says the Lakbay organizing committee. *"We also want to dramatize service, being a pre-need company. Tourism is service-oriented and so are we,and where else to show this but during the Lakbay fest itself?"*

"You see top management helping out the delegates to the point of carrying their luggage, accompanying them to their rooms, eating the same food and having fun together. It is an uplifting experience to be wholeheartedly helped by management so it trickles down to that same service they would give to our planholders," the organizers added.

This year, Prudentialakbay is being held in Manila to give the provincial and regional sales associates a chance to experience the hustle and bustle and the sights and sounds of the city. Although next year's venue has yet to be decided, its eventuality is 100% certain.

The Lakbay Committee members are one in saying:*"The Lakbay is the most- anticipated and awaited event in our company. Our sales associates look forward to it, most of them even use it as their prime motivation to work hard. That's why the company makes sure that come what may, the Lakbay happens."*



THE POWER OF THE GOOD LIFE

Top 3 Area Managers

Oscar J. Gonzalez, Jr.
Champion

Marilyn R. Cueto
2nd place

Marilyn B. Pequeña
3rd Place

Top 5 Agency Managers/ Sales Executives/ Managers

Ofelia O. Disuanco
Champion

Ma. Cecilia G. Estrella
2nd Place

Marcial G. Cepeda
3rd Place

Mariano G. Burog
4th place

Lolita P. del Carmen
5th Place

Top 5 Group Managers/Associate Sales Executives/Associate Sales Managers

Carmen B. Valenzuela
Champion

Ma. Katherine L. Nubla
2nd Place

Imelda M. Manalo
3rd Place

Grace S. Nañez
4th Place

Juliet D. Kotoken
5th Place

Top 10 Sales Counselors/ Sales Solicitors/Sales Advisors

Christy T. Lo - Champion • Emmanuel R. dela Cruz - 2nd • Richard O. de Castro - 3rd • Tyrene M. Apacible - 4th • Rosemarie S. de Guzman - 5th
Ma. Carmen T. Villacorte - 6th • Darius S. Dizon - 7th • Stephanie Alexandria G. Wong - 8th • Melba C. Maloles - 9th • Ma. Fe M. Rido - 10th

rdees

Delfin J. Galenzoga
Erlinda L. Galura
equeña
Nila C. Quieta

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PRUDENTIALAKBAY MILESTONES

- ***1989*** - Cebu (200 delegates)
- ***1990*** - Bacolod / Iloilo (275 delegates)
- ***1991*** - Boracay (350 delegates)
- ***1992*** - La Union / Fort Ilocandia (450 delegates)
- ***1993*** - Puerto Azul / Pagsanjan / Manila Hotel (600 delegates)
- ***1994*** - Subic (700 delegates)
- ***1995*** - Boracay (800 delegates)
- ***1996*** - Cebu (850 delegates)
- ***1997*** - Baguio (900 delegates)
- ***1998*** - Subic (1000 delegates)
- ***1999*** - Cebu (1000 delegates)
- ***2000*** - Davao (1050 delegates)

Prudentialakbay Supports Domestic Tourism

Prudentialakbay is an annual summer celebration for hard-driving sales associates. The mood is spirited and the moment is fun.

But underneath all the games, prizes, and parties is Prudentialife's own contribution to our government's thrust to boost the domestic tourism industry.

"Not many people know that Prudentialakbay is a significant income-generator to the cities chosen as venue," say the Prudentialakbay Organizers. *"When over a thousand delegates buy pasalubong to bring home to their loved ones, the city's income jumps dramatically."*

Of course, it's not just the *pasalubong* that helps tourism. Consider the thousand delegates who experience the city and enjoy its sights, food, and people-- they will go back to their respective hometowns raving about the city they just visited. The result? All their relatives and friends would put the city on top of its to-go-to list.

Consider also the media mileage the city gets for free from advertising materials that Prudentialife puts out to announce the Lakbay. Not to mention the merchandisers like t-shirts, caps, that mention upfront the city's name and what it can offer. With all these, any city in the Philippines wouldn't really mind being chosen as future venues for the Lakbay.

For thirteen years now, Prudentialakbay has been quietly making a significant contribution to major cities in the Philippines. To date, Prudentialakbay has visited Cebu, Davao, Iloilo, Baguio, Subic, the Ilocos region, to name a few, acquainting its participants to the wonders of our country's world-class destinations.

Indeed, Prudentialakbay is not all fun and recreation nor is it just a three-day break. It has also become an invaluable partner to Philippine Domestic Tourism.

PHILIPPINE GROWTH AT 3.3%

IMF sees slowing Asian economies in 2001

WASHINGTON—Slowing economic growth in the United States and Japan would dampen output across the board in Asian economies this year with the exception of China, where rapid expansion would continue, an IMF source said Monday.

According to the International Monetary Fund's closely guarded World Economic Outlook, growth in Japan would slow to 0.6 percent this year, much slower than the 1.8 percent the IMF forecast last September, the source told Reuters.

While China's economy would be little affected by the broader slowdown, with growth expected at between 7 percent and 7.5 percent, the source said growth elsewhere in Asia would be much lower than when the IMF last published the WEO in September.

Growth in South Korea is expected to slow to 3.5 percent this year, compared to an earlier forecast of 6.5 percent, marking the sharpest downward revision to IMF forecasts in the region.

Economic growth in India is expected at a solid 5.6 percent, down from a 6.5-percent forecast in September.

Indonesia, which is struggling to bridge an impasse with the IMF over a frozen loan program, is expected to post a 3.5-percent growth, down from an earlier 5-percent forecast.

The Fund expects growth in Thailand to slow to 3 percent this year compared to an earlier prediction of 5 percent. And the IMF sees growth in Vietnam holding up well at 5 percent, off just a bit from the 5.4 percent expected earlier.

Hong Kong's economy is expected to grow 3.5 percent versus an earlier estimate of 4.8 percent, while Singapore's expansion is seen at 5 percent, weaker than the 5.9-percent forecast last September.

The source added that the IMF expected Malaysia's economy to grow by 4.5 percent, compared to the 6 percent forecast earlier, and the Philippines' by 3.3 percent, compared to September's prediction of 4.5 percent. But the source said those numbers might be revised lower ahead of the report's official release on Thursday.

The lower forecasts for Asia come as the IMF expects the United States to post sharply lower growth this year.

According to highlights of the final draft of the WEO, obtained by Reuters on Saturday, the global lender expects the US economy to grow by a sluggish 1.5 percent this year before picking up modestly to 2.5 percent in 2002.

In September, the IMF had forecast US economic growth of 3.2 percent this year.

While the IMF still does not expect a full-fledged US recession, a sharp slowdown in the United States, the main engine of economic growth in recent years, is a key reason the Fund has revised lower almost all of its forecasts.

Its overall global growth forecast for this year has been cut to 3.2 percent from an earlier 4.2 percent estimate. But the Fund expects the global economy to expand 3.9 percent in 2002.

In a bid to foster growth, the US Federal Reserve unexpectedly cut interest rates by one-half of a percentage point last week. Since the start of the year, the US central bank has cut interest rates by two full percentage points as a slew of economic data showed the economy to be slowing.

The IMF report will also forecast growth of 2.4 percent this year in the 13 countries that make up the euro zone, followed by 2.8 percent in 2002.

The report will be released on Thursday as part of the IMF's Spring meetings here. With the US economy slowing, the IMF is expected to call on Europe to do more to foster growth and urge the European Central Bank to cut interest rates. *Reuters*

Japan's new PM to inherit weak economy

TOKYO—Japanese output was brisker than expected in February, but a quarterly business survey showed that new Prime Minister-in-waiting, Junichiro Koizumi, would inherit a weakening economy with bleak near-term prospects.

The Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry said on Tuesday its all-industries index—a rough supply-side measure of gross domestic product—rose 1.4 percent in February, with the important tertiary sector sub-index up 2 percent.

Both outcomes dwarfed market expectations, but economists said the gain in the tertiary index in particular, which makes up 60 percent of the all-industries gauge, was distorted by a revision to seasonal adjustment factors.

These led to a revision in January's drop in the tertiary index to 1.1 percent from 0.5 percent, resulting in an exaggerated rebound in February. The all-industries index fell 1.7 percent in January.

Stripping aside the technical changes, year-on-year growth in the tertiary index growth slowed to just 0.8 percent in February, the lowest since May 1999. The all-industry index was flat year on year, the weakest showing since February 1999.

"In other words, although the headline figure was strong, the underlying trend is still weakening," said Ron Bevacqua, an economist with Commerz Securities.

A quarterly business survey by the government's Economic and Social Research Institute underscored the trend, with many more companies turning pessimistic about domestic economic conditions in the January-March period.

The business survey index tumbled to minus 31 from minus one in the October-December quarter. It was the weakest reading since the last quarter of 1998, and a Cabinet Office official said the index was likely to continue declining.

"We need to monitor future movements, such as stock prices and US economic activity," the official told reporters.

The index, which subtracts the percentage of firms saying business is unfavorable from those reporting favorable conditions, came a day after a similarly weak consumer sentiment survey.

James Malcolm, an economist with JP Morgan Chase, said the METI data suggested that the economy as a whole continued to eke out small gains in the first quarter of the year.

But he added: "It is clearly poised to turn down in the coming quarters as recent sharp declines in business and consumer confidence are beginning to affect domestic demand."

JP Morgan is currently projecting a 0.7-percent growth in calendar year 2001, close to a new International Monetary Fund forecast of 0.6 percent—slashed from a figure of 1.8 percent it had pencilled in last September.

Mamoru Yamazaki of Barclays Capital said industrial output, hard hit by a slowdown in the United States, Japan's main export market, was likely to weaken further this quarter.

"With the impact expected to filter into the nonmanufacturing sector as well, overall economic deceleration is likely to continue through the first half of fiscal year 2001," Yamazaki said in a note to clients.

Apart from poring over the monthly statistics, economists are eager for clues to the policies that Japan's likely new prime minister, Junichiro Koizumi, intends to adopt. *Reuters*

AP

MALAYSIA SLOWDOWN

A foreign cargo ship loads container at the West Port, 80 km from Kuala Lumpur. The recent cut in US interest rates will help the global economy, but in Malaysia, growth will slow in the first two quarters of this year before recovering, the central bank governor, Zeti Akhtar Aziz, said.

Production up slightly at Honda

TOKYO—Domestic production in March rose at Honda Motor Co. but was down at the other Japanese automakers.

Production for that month in Japan fell at Toyota Motor Corp., Nissan Motor Co., Mitsubishi Motors Corp. and Mazda Motor Corp., the companies said Tuesday.

Honda's domestic output rose 0.5 percent in March from a year ago to 114,215 vehicles, while its offshore production rose 4.7 percent in the month to 126,856, mainly in Asia and Europe.

Honda's exports totaled 27,710 in March, down 9.5 percent from a year earlier, on declining shipments to North America and Europe, Honda said.

In Japan, Honda sold 106,388 vehicles in March, up 11.8 percent from the same month a year ago, extending its streak of on-year rising sales at home to 16 months.

Particularly popular at home were the Life small car and its lineup of minivans such as the Stream, Odyssey and Step Wagon.

For fiscal 2000 ending in March, Honda sold 790,407 vehicles, up 10.4 percent from a year ago, the Tokyo automaker said.

Toyota said its domestic production in March dropped 2.9 percent on year to 322,957 vehicles, the first on-year decline in six months.

Exports were up 5.5 percent from a year ago to 137,015, the first increase in three months on rising exports to the United States and China, Toyota said. *AP*

US gasoline prices seen higher

WASHINGTON—US gasoline prices, which have jumped almost 20 cents a gallon over the last two weeks in some cities, could climb even higher if there are disruptions in fuel supplies, a top US energy official warned on Monday.

"If anything unforeseen should happen—a refinery go down unexpectedly, a pipeline taken out of service—we would see gasoline prices skyrocket," said Robert Kripowicz, acting assistant secretary for fossil energy at the energy department.

Speaking at a meeting of petroleum geologists, Kripowicz said US gasoline supplies remain tight relative to consumer demand. "We are on the razor's edge of gasoline supply and demand," he said.

The most recent data from the energy department shows US gasoline inventories at 193 million barrels, down 13 million barrels from a year ago and way below historical levels for this time of year.

The national price for gasoline at the pumped averaged $1.62 a gallon over the last week, already above the $1.52 summer peak the department forecast would be reached in June.

Kripowicz said higher gasoline prices, along with other rising energy costs, are helping to slow the US economy.

"The last three recessions in this country have all been tied in some way to rising energy prices, and there is evidence that today's energy problems are contributing to the economic slowdown," he said. *Reuters*

Surprise rate cut stirs debate on Federal Reserve's strategy

WASHINGTON—The US job market is softening but those who earn a living reading the tea leaves of the Federal Reserve's interest rate policies may find themselves in greater demand.

Fed watchers, who use reams of economic data and the public comments of policymakers to forecast interest rate changes, had seen the cache of their profession fade as the US central bank moved during the 1990s to a more open monetary policy.

But Fed chair Alan Greenspan has lately reverted to his sphinx-like ways. He cut rates suddenly last week, taking the rare step for the second time this year of altering borrowing costs outside regularly scheduled Fed meetings.

Although most Fed watchers were as befuddled as everyone else by the latest move, several said a new pattern may be emerging in the Fed's strategy and the silver lining for them is that their insights may be more useful.

"Our market value just went up," said Charles Lieberman, strategist and economist at Advisors Financial in Suffern, New York.

Fed watching has always been more of an art than a science but during 1980s numbers were a key focus of the job as money-supply data played a big role in the policy process.

Paul Volcker, who was Fed chairman until Greenspan took over in 1987, closely guarded the agency's secrets, fearing that too much disclosure would compromise its independence.

That left it to professional economists to watch short-term money markets for signals on whether the Fed had changed policy.

But in 1994, Greenspan began experimenting with a kind of "glasnost," announcing outright following meetings changes in the federal funds overnight lending rate, which had replaced money supply as the key US monetary tool.

The Greenspan-led Fed would lift the veil of secrecy even further, eventually offering detailed explanations of rate moves after they took place and even giving explanations when the central bank opted not to move.

The Fed also offers clues after each meeting on the direction of future rate moves, as it makes clear whether it thinks the risks to the economy are weighted toward overheating, weakening or if they are balanced.

In the late 1990s, polls of Fed watchers taken prior to policy meetings had an excellent track record of predicting the outcome.

Greenspan and his colleagues helped investors out by offering clues and hints in speeches and testimony.

The latest move departed from that style.

Not only did policymakers refrain from offering any hints about an imminent rate change, many of them seemed to play down the kinds of worries about the economy that might signal a rate cut was under consideration.

For example, in one of a slew of speeches by the heads of the regional Fed banks, Richmond Fed president Alfred Broaddus said in late March there was "every reason to expect" that the sluggish economy would rebound in the second half of the year. *Reuters*

Recession fears bite as Aussie prices rise

CANBERRA—The Australian government defended its economic management credentials yesterday after new evidence emerged that inflation and unemployment were creeping higher, increasing fears of recession.

Analysts fear an economy already dangerously close to stalling will be hurt by the retreat of international investors following the government's decision to veto Royal Dutch/Shell's A$10 billion ($5 billion) takeover bid for Woodside Petroleum.

The Australian media largely attributed the move, announced Monday by Australia's treasurer, Peter Costello, to the government's determination to shore up its prospects of political survival during an election year.

The market's concerns over the message telegraphed to offshore investors were compounded Tuesday by a higher-than-expected one percent rise in consumer prices during the March quarter. *AFP*

EU says knowledge piracy threatens 'new economies'

STOCKHOLM—Piracy of intellectual property like drugs and software is spiralling out of control and threatens to hobble knowledge-based "new economies," the European Union said Monday.

"Intellectual property theft is an important evil and it is rising in importance. At the moment we are not able to get it under control," EU Single Market Commissioner Frits Bolkenstein said at the opening of a conference on piracy and forgery.

Other panel members said the world's richest drug makers took a step in the right direction by abandoning a legal battle to defend their AIDS drug patents from generic imports in South Africa. To have done otherwise would have undermined the system.

"I believe if the pharmaceutical industries had maintained and won their case it would have eroded the legitimacy of the patent system," said Leif Pagrotsky, trade minister of Sweden, which holds the rotating EU presidency.

A decision last week by 39 drug firms to drop a landmark court case was hailed as a major victory for the world's poorest countries in their efforts to import cheaper drugs to combat the AIDS epidemic, but cost the industry heavily in lost profits.

"We cannot defend a system that requires of poor dying people to pay the same prices we do in Sweden and the developed world to finance profits and research and development," he said.

Pagrotsky said the key to stamping out counterfeiting was to educate citizens about the dangers of using counterfeit products while also reinforcing their faith in the patent system by encouraging companies to use it in consumers' interests.

"I urge not only the public but also industry to behave reasonably to make this system a system of the future," he told a news conference.

Swedish Justice Minister Thomas Bodstrom said between 5 and 7 percent of world trade involved counterfeit or pirated goods, ranging from substandard mechanical parts for cars and aircraft to cheap versions of the male impotence drug Viagra.

"It's a threat to consumers because counterfeit products seldom meet the same safety requirements," he said.

Pagrotsky agreed that intellectual property had to be more rigorously protected as economies became increasingly dependent on knowledge. *Reuters*

Singaporeans see depressing future

SINGAPORE—Consumer confidence in Singapore has plummeted to its lowest level since the 1997 economic meltdown and the near-term outlook is depressing, according to a survey released Tuesday.

As a US-led global slowdown begins to bite, Singaporeans see a dark three months ahead where they become poorer while the job market and the economy both get worse.

The Straits Times quarterly Consumer Confidence Index, which has a base of 100, plummeted from 263 last December to 142 in March.

The latest survey was taken weeks before the government this month lowered its economic growth forecast for the year from 5-7 percent to 3.5-5.5 percent.

Feelings about the Singapore economy are more dismal now than during the crisis four years ago. *AFP*

China-Japan trade row escalates

BEIJING—China warned it may retaliate over Japan's decision to impose restrictions on cheap Chinese vegetable imports, the official Xinhua news agency reported Tuesday.

A spokesperson for the Ministry of Foreign Trade and Economic Cooperation (Moftec) demanded Japan remove immediately the emergency tariffs imposed Monday which affect imports of Chinese spring onions, mushrooms and rushes.

"China will have to adopt corresponding measures if Japan continues to maintain this trade protection tactic, and Japan should bear all the responsibility arising therefrom," said spokesperson Gao Yan.

Gao did not say what measures China may take, but she said that if the curbs were not removed the row could seriously damage Sino-Japanese relations and affect Japanese investors in China.

"The tactic has also caused a heavy loss to the Chinese side, as well as doing great harm to the interests of Japan's importers, consumers and investors in China," she said.

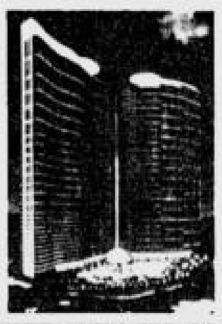
Japan said Monday the new tariffs on spring onions, shiitake mushrooms and tatami rushes would last 200 days and were imposed under World Trade Organization (WTO) rules allowing temporary tariffs to be imposed for up to four years to allow specific industries time to adjust to global competition.

The new tariffs—of between 106 and 266 percent—will only affect imports of the agricultural products in excess of their average volume for the three years between 1997 and 1999.

Gao said Japan was applying double standards by implementing the new curbs and added they violated WTO rules.

"The Japanese side only observes WTO rules favorable to itself, but evades the obligations of the rules which are unfavorable," she said.

"Japan's acts are serious violations of the principle of objectivity, justice, and fairness," she said. *AFP*



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BFRV nr Abel Mosce 169m² 6,500/m² • 874-7234

MAKATI

FT. BONIFACIO
RUSH 450 SQM
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MANILA

A. Mabini VAC LOT 488m² @P50K/m² 8440130 Rosie

MANDALUYONG

9 de Pebrero Near Shaw A-1500m² • 534-6610 Jojo

Wack Wack 1100m² Near Manuela P40T/m² 671-4421

MARIKINA

Marikina East 814m² VAC Mor Sun 16K/m² 8440130

MUNTINLUPA

Hillsborough Area 450sqm P4M 655-4556 • 655-9393

Hilsboro 400-800 8,500/m² Good Loc. • 874-9074 / 75

PARANAQUE

Tahanan-Vac Lot 280sqm @12K/sqm • 844-0130

Maywood 288m² VAC LOT @7500/m² 8440130

V/L Multi-Natl 2Lots 615ea Main Rd Cheap 6435313

PASIG

Lot 6971sq.m. & warehouse at Pasig w/ wharf provision CALL: 897-5272 (Zenaida)

QUEZON CITY

**Only P1.3M Leland Dr. Novaliches 671-4421

**Neopolitan Ph6 P4500/m² 300m² w/Fence 671-4421

2.5Has Resdl Lot Ideal Twnhse Dovt QC 937-1536

4.5Has Resdl VL Cheap Diliman QC • 937-1536

Del Monte Ave. QC 1600m² V-Lot • 928-1469

L317 Marcos Hiway Comml Vacant Lot • 928-1469

Leland Dr near Eternal Gardens P1.3M • 671-4421

North View QC 180m² P5T/m² • 928-2497

Nr New York 400m² 20T Neg No Flood 6453731

QC 15th Ave 500m² 25T Neg Facing East 6453731

SFDM QC 519sqm w/Imp. 815-0298 CP 0919-4037225

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

LOT

QUEZON CITY

Tandang Sora
755m² • Call Tel.# 634-8160

Tandang Sora QC L-1640m² P16T/m² • 928-1469

Xavier Ville LA=280sqm P25T/sqm • 928-2497

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RIZAL

300m² Palos Verdes Antipolo Very Cheap • 937-1536

Antipolo V/L w/fruit trees 5300m² w/old Hse 6435313

Imelda Ave 464sqm Comm'l 815-0298 CP 0919-4037225

Kingsville Hills Area 120sqm P3T/sqm 655-9393, 655-4556

Montevista Hgts. Area: 140sqm P4,000/sqm 655-9393

Montevista Hts Area: 179sqm 3,900/m² 655-9393 • 655-4556

San Martin Subd. Area: 240m² 2,500/m² 655-9393 • 655-4556

Taytay 1H Tikling 3.3/2 Nice Flat w'Road 6453731

Taytay 1Ha. Comm'l Nat'l Rd 815-0298 CP 0919-4037225

Village East Area 387sqm 4,500/m² 655-9393, 655-4556

Village East Binangonan 203m² cor. 5313742

With Old House Area 426sqm P3M • 655-9393 / 655-4556

SAN JUAN

Ghills North 750-960m² 723-2391; 0917-3848111

Little Baguio 300-500m² 723-2391; 0917-3848111

San Juan Lit Baguio 450m² Good 4 Wrhse 723-2391

San Juan Little Baguio LA=300 & up • 723-2391

PROVINCIAL

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Angat Bulacan 180TH m² @ 250/m² farm 8747234

Angat Bulacan Farm Lot 18Has @250m² 872-0470

Baguio Subd. LOT w/Pine Trees Tel. 5313742

Citiland Subd. Bul. Hts
StaMaria Bul 240m· 360T 4155744

Cityland, Paliparan Farmlots 791m² 658m² (adjoining) 6559393

Colbella Homes Tanauan Batangas 3Lots 5313742

Fort Magsaysay 18Has Resd'l P450m² 5313742

Grand Victoria N. Ecija 4 Lots 5313742

Malinta Bul 7049m² VLot Along Hi-way • 928-1469

San Pablo Farm Lot 2.1HA P600/sqm • 842-1571

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Tagaytay w/View 5802sqm P2000/sqm • 633-7601-03

Villa Segovia Sta Rosa 2 corner LOTS 5313742

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LOT

OTHER AREAS

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CONDO/TWNHSE/APT

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MAKATI

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Makati 2-3BR P3.8M Cash/Terms Call 533-5525

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Studio PRINCE PLZA II ful furn, 3.5M (neg) Call 5635042

MANILA

3BRnrDLSlle Taft 8992148

B.New 5BR5TB 150sqm car garage w/s. pool function room & security 25T. CALL 534-0951/534-0130 office hrs.

MANDALUYONG

Various Wack-Wack Condo Lee Gardens 5346610 Jojo

Wack² Twin 2br FA145 Fcing Glf Crse Call 723-2391

PARANAQUE

Paranaque City LA68m² 3BRs P3M • 533-5525

PASIG

**Renaissance Ortigas 1-3Br Rush Sale 6812457

Office Condo Ortigas 38Th /m² Cell 09174149898

PARAGON PLAZA EDSA Res. Studio • T634-1212

Renaissance 3000 New 815-0298 CP 0919-4037225

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QUEZON CITY

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Greenhills Eisenhower St., 3br P6-8M Call 723-2391

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One Beverly Place 7.2M 3br mq pkg 157m² 6435313

San Juan Thse FA289 3br Attic P11.5M 723-2391

PROVINCIAL

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Fontana Share 200T 9283267 / 141210187

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Pillar Vill 941-7604

MAKATI

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MANILA

3BRnrDLSlle Taft 8992148

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Sanlo Maglines Belair Ecovil 1BR 5BR Mel Call 815-0298

MARIKINA

3BRnr sch church mkt9411342

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CONDO/TWNHSE

MAKATI

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IT Bldg Fort Boni Enjoy D Benefits P350/m² 671-4421

Mkt Asia Tower 1-2-3Br 7518342 6337601-03

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3BR FF DIRECT OWNER NO COMMISSION NEEDED 7166269 PAULINE

MANILA

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Rush! Rent / Sale Ortigas Renaissance 09178143792

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LEGAL NOTICE

...ce is hereby given that the estate of the later Rosita ...nez Bernabe has been extrajudicially settled among her heirs as per Doc. No. 235 ; Page No. 47; Book No. XVII ; Series of 2001 before Notary Public Fernando T. Collantes of Pasig City (PDI- April 18, 25 & May 2, 2001)

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late NORBERTO OSIDO has been extrajudicially settled w/ sale by his heirs as per Doc No. 420; Page No. 84; Book No. X; Series 2001 before Notary Public Eloid Fajardo of Pasig City.
(PDI-Apr.11,18 & 25, 2001)

NOTICE OF LOSS

NOTICE is hereby given to the public that I, Ulrich Bosse, German citizen, have lost my ACR with No. E-093050. Anyone who finds said document, kindly return it to the holder or to the Bureau Of Immigration within 10 days from this publication. Please contact holder at 845-6338.
(April 25 & May 2, 2001)

Passport No. 12167496 Islamic Republic of Iran Belong to Mohammad Panahandeh Lost April 10, 2001 in LRT any one Found Pls. Call 843-8101

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PERSONAL

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O Immaculate Virgin Mary, Mother of our Lord Jesus and our Mother, penetrated with the most likely confidence, in thy all-powerful and never failing intercession, manifested so often through the Miraculous Medal, with thy loving trustful children. Implore thee to obtain for us, the grace and favors we ask during the Novena, if they be beneficial to our immortal souls, and the souls for whom we pray. Thou knowest, O Mary, how our souls have been the sanctuaries of thy Son who hits inequity. Obtain for us then a deep hatred of sin and that purity of heart which will attach us to God alone so that our every thought, word and deed may tend to His greater glory. Obtain also for us a spirit of prayer and self-denial that we may recover by penance what we lost by sin and at length attain to that blessed abode where thou art the Queen of angels and of men. Amen.

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INQUIRER
TRIVIA
By BONG BARRAMEDA

Spin Doctors

Q. Why are political public relations consultants and admen called "spin doctors"?

A. In the jargon of US politics, *spin* means interpretation, the bias or slant put on information when it is presented to the public or in a media conference. All information can have a positive or negative *spin*, which is actually a sporting metaphor, from the *spin* put on the ball, for example by a basketball shooter. *Doctor* derives from the various figurative uses of the verb *doctor* (ranging from 'patch up, mend' to 'falsify').

For the Record. The phrase *spin doctor* was first used in print in October 1984 in an editorial in the *New York Times* about the aftermath of the televised debate between US presidential candidates Ronald Reagan and Walter Mondale: "A dozen men in good suits and women in silk dresses will circulate among the reporters, spouting confident opinions. They won't be just press agents trying to impart a favorable spin to a routine release. They'll be the Spin Doctors, senior advisers to the candidates."

Classified Odd. On February 20, 1947, two pregnant women were examined by their interns in a hospital in Ogden, Utah. Each doctor thought he heard double heartbeats — an indication of twins — and was surprised when each woman had a single birth, within five minutes of each other. The mothers remained strangers until three years later, when the Hendersons built a home next door to the Ritters. Within a few days, a comedy of errors was occurring — both sets of parents confused little Joyce with her identical three-year-old neighbor, Jean. The girls became friends, and found they liked the same foods, the same sports, and the same music. Their voices sound alike, and when they were five, they lost their baby teeth one by one within hours of each other. Their teachers had trouble telling them apart, but, said one, "It doesn't matter. They always get the same grades anyway."

WORD WATCH

Ikot : from the Malay *ikut*, "to follow."

PDI – April 25, 2001

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P.O. Box No. M-116
Attention: Marketing Department

NOTICE
OF CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Effective March 12, 2001

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"Whoever finds his life will lose it,
and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it."
Matthew 10:39

Our Dearly Beloved

PAULINO F. CAYCO

Chairman - Arellano University
Co-Chairman - Arellano Law Foundation

Peacefully joined his Creator
on April 21, 2001.

His Arellano Law Foundation and School of Law Family requests the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His cremated remains lie in state at the Mount Carmel Church, Broadway, New Manila, Quezon City.

Interment will be on April 25, 2001 at the Mount Carmel Church after the 11:00 AM Mass.

"The Lord is my shepherd
I shall not want
He makes me lie down the green pastures
He leads me beside still waters
He restores my soul."
Psalm 23:12

Atty. Carlos S. Solis

Former Mayor of Lipa City

Died in the Grace of our Lord on April 12, 2001
at the age of 78.

His dearest wife Yoly; and their children Bobby and Sally (nee Custodio), Baby and Lito Bugarin, Brigitte and Arthur Gerhardinger, Joy and Nestor Alfonte, Lani, Diana and Joey Rojo, Grace and Andrew Robertson, Aletha; their grandchildren Kristin, Carlo, Shasha, Nikki, Chella, Krystal, Cara and Alyssa; his sister Aurora Villaruz and her family, relatives and friends request for prayers for his eternal joy and peace.

His remains lie in state at the 2nd Floor Mortuary, San Sebastian Cathedral, Lipa City, and will be transferred to the Sanggunian Bayan Session Hall, Lipa City Hall at 3:00 p.m. on April 26, 2001.

There will be a necrological service on Friday, April 27, 2001 at 8:00 a.m. at Lipa City Hall.

Interment to follow after the Mass at 10:00 a.m. at San Sebastian Cathedral.

Our fondest memories and everlasting love to

Evelyn M. Cordero Bustos

of Tacloban City, Leyte
(19 April 1967 - 10 April 2001)

who passed away in the Grace of our Lord at the very young age of 33.

She led a life full of challenges and multiple personal sacrifices...

She was cremated last 12 April 2001 at the Loyola Crematorium and her ashes are in state in the family residence.

Her four beautiful children, **Dawn Vincennes, John Jake Lawrence Gregory, Jovannah Loren Cristina, Mary Conne Indira,** and husband **Thomas Geluz Bustos** convey their continuing gratitude to her friends, relatives and all who shared their moments of bereavement, offered prayers and Masses, and are still continuing to do so, for the eternal repose of ***her very lovely and honest soul.***

An obituary with a picture can be a fitting tribute to your departed loved one.

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Message of Thanks

We, the family of the late

DOMINADOR S. PONGOS

who joined his Creator on March 18, 2001

sincerely convey our deepest gratitude and appreciation to all those who offered prayers, sent flowers, visited and kept vigil, attended the funeral rites and condoled with us in our moment of grief.

"If parting has left a void—
then fill it with remembered joys
A friendship shared, a laugh, a kiss
Oh yes, these things I too will miss"

Our Dearly Beloved

DONG
LUIS BERNARDO F. BELLO IV

Died in the Grace of our Lord on April 22, 2001 at the age of 36.

His wife **Irene**; daughters, **Iwee** and **Julianne**; mother **Caridad**; father, **Luisito** (†); sisters and brothers-in-law, **Cheryl** and **Sonny, Pia** and **Jun, Ada** and **Emerson, Leni** and **Rico, Charity** and **Richard, Chiqui** and **Cesar, Nimfa** and **Noel, Yen** and **Ronald**; brother and sister-in-law, **Choy** and **Marwee**; mother-in-law **Dr. Flora Taboada**; brother-in-law, **Cedric**; relatives and friends, request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains now lie in state at the Cinco Estrellas Memorial Chapels, 349 Quirino Highway, Sangandaan, Novaliches, Quezon City, and will be Cremated on **April 28, 2001**, Saturday, at the Eternal Gardens after the **9:00 A.M.** Mass at the Cinco Estrellas Memorial Chapel.

In lieu of flowers, prayers and Mass offerings would be highly appreciated.

"Perhaps my time seemed too brief—
Don't lengthen it now with undue grief
Lift up your hearts and peace to thee–
God wanted me now, He set me free."

EUGENIO S. DE LEON, M.D.

Of Las Piñas City
Peacefully joined his Creator on April 20, 2001
at the age of 84.

His loving wife **Arcangel Flores-De Leon, M.D.**; children **Alicia Maclan, Willie & Sybil, Tito & Kay, Chuchi & Sue, Saty & Adora Claridad**; grandchildren **Aileen, Aimee & Erwin Maclan, Paul Geoffrey & Pia De Leon, Alexis & Justin De Leon, Andrea, Laura & Tommy De Leon, Anton, David** and **Martin Claridad**; relatives and friends request your prayers for the Eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the Chapel of Our Lady of Fatima Parish, Philamlife Village, Pamplona, Las Piñas City.

Mass will be held on Thursday, 26th of April 2001 at 1:00 p.m. at the Our Lady of Fatima, Parish Church.

Interment will follow at 3:00 p.m. at the Loyola Memorial Park, Sucat, Parañaque City.

---

†

MARINA MAXIMA MANIAGO ONGTECO

(widow of the late Delfin Ongteco)
of Sta. Cruz, Zambalez
Died in the Grace of our Lord on April 21, 2001
at the age of 84.

Her children **Rolando** and **Luzviminda, Serafin** and **Vilma, Vicente** and **Emma,** and **Lino** and **Linda**; grandchildren **Pia** and **Phillip, Cindy, Cynthia** and **Cheryl, James, Jacqueline** and **Kathleen,** and **Joy, James** and **Jacob**; great grandchildren; nephews and nieces and other relatives request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at the family residence in Sta. Cruz, Zambalez.

Interment will be on Thursday, April 26 at the Sta. Cruz Catholic Cemetery after the funeral Mass at the St. Michael's Parish Church at 7:30 a.m.

DRA. FILOTEA LAREDO-JUSAY

Died in the Grace of our Lord on April 22, 2001
at the age of 81.

Her loving husband **Honesto C. Jusay** (†); children **Ana Fe Linda & Virgilio, Honesto Jr. & Marita**; grandchildren **Joanne & Michael** and **Czarina**; relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her body lies in state at Laredo Residence at 32 G. Aguilar St., Lucena City.

Interment will be on April 26, 2001 after the 2:00 p.m. Mass at Lucena City.

We know that God raised the Lord Jesus from death. He will raise us to life with Jesus. He will present us, along with you, to God.

2 Cor. 4:14

e-mail: peopleatwork@inquirer.com.ph.

PEOPLE at WORK

RAUL O. MARCELO, Editor ■ REGINA GALANG REYES, Subsection Editor

Lucky guy lands fairy tale job

By Cecile G. Garcia

CAREER*Tales*

SIDNEY T. Uy is enchanted with Enchanted Kingdom. This is because although he does not have a college degree, he was able to land a job in this Disney-style theme park almost effortlessly.

Enchanted Kingdom, the popular theme park in Sta. Rosa Laguna, has barely opened its doors in May 1995 when Uy applied for a job. He was hired on the same day he applied. "They disregarded the fact that I did not have the minimum two-year college requirement," says Uy. He started work a week later on May 24.

Uy, who hails from Calamba, Laguna and resides in Cabuyao is a high school graduate. Unfortunately, he was not able to finish the two-year course he was taking at the International Electronics Technical Institute. But he finished a short course at STI and also a pastoral course. A born-again Christian, Uy once served as a missionary in a full-gospel church.

Operator

The former missionary who had no previous work experience was first assigned as an operator, thus skipping being an attendant (whose job mainly is loading and unloading guests from the different rides.) "An operator is responsible for supervising and overseeing control of the system, which monitors all rides," explains Uy.

Before one can qualify to be an operator like Uy, one has to undergo classroom and hands-on training, which is done by supervisors who have, in turn, been trained by representatives (usually foreigners) of the manufacturers of the rides. "In order to be an operator, you have to be certified," says Uy, who first got his feet wet with the kiddie rides, later on moving to the big rides. "It took me four years to learn how to run all 22 rides in EK (Enchanted Kingdom)."

Having been promoted to lead man a couple of years ago, Uy is presently in charge of five rides with 20 attendants and operators under him. This is during EK's peak season in December and in the summer months. The number drops to 12 in the lean season, especially in the rainy months. "I handle people. I train attendants to be operators," says Uy.

Exciting

In truth, he reveals, working in a theme park like EK is pretty exciting because the place itself is exciting. "Work here is never dull or boring. Actually, it does not seem like work at all," admits Uy.

Although they have an office at the back of the 13-hectare property, where they do paper work and conduct meetings, most of the time, he is out on the field. Uy starts his day by going around the huge complex, inspecting rides and making sure they're in tip-top condition. As lead man, Uy must see to it that maintenance and operations of rides go smoothly. "Our primary concern is the safety of our guests," he says. To insure this, rides are checked and double-checked everyday. Weekly and monthly check-ups are done as well. "We also do a thorough annual rehab."

According to Uy, EK's rigid standards, as far as personnel and facilities are concerned, is one of the reasons why it has maintained its reputation as an entertainment haven for the young and for the entire family.

Because rides are the theme park's main attraction, management conducts cross-training, meaning personnel from other sections are also trained to handle and operate rides efficiently and safely. "We can't operate if we're undermanned," says Uy. Big rides require two or more operators, while kiddie rides make do with one. EK employees, by the way, around 200 of them, work on eight-hour shifts, five days a week. They are referred to as "cast members."

Cast member

As a cast member, Uy claims he is very satisfied with his job. "The pay is okay," he quips. There is also never a lack of challenge owing perhaps to the nature of the workplace. "I meet all kinds of people. Foreigners come," says Uy, who displays notable communication skills. "I feel challenged whenever I interact with them." Particularly challenging for Uy is communicating with Japanese and Koreans, most of whom can hardly speak English.

In fact, interacting with guests is part of Uy's job. "If I am especially attracted to foreigners, it's because I'm curious about their life and their culture," he says. But generally, the 26-year-old young man genuinely likes people. "I find satisfaction in seeing our guests happy and enjoying themselves. After all, EK's goal is wholesome entertainment for everybody."

Safety procedures

EK cast members are trained to deal with emergency situations. Uy recalls an incident when one of the guests had a seizure or epileptic attack. Thanks to their first-aid training, his life was saved. "We stopped the ride," recounts Uy. Emergency first-aid measures were applied until an ambulance arrived. At least one-half of EK employees have undergone in-house and Red Cross first-aid training.

Problems arise, says Uy, when guests are not cooperative. "Once in a while," he says, "we encounter people who won't comply with safety procedures. Every ride has certain restrictions. We can't compromise. We stand firm on what is right. Safety is our first priority." Naturally, guests are concerned mainly with being entertained and having fun.

Learning

"It's hard to believe," Uy enthuses. "I didn't know anything about theme parks when I started. But I've tried to learn and absorb as much as I can." Still, he feels there's a lot more he can learn. Uy is hardworking and earnest. "I guess what the bosses like about me is that I try to do my best, whatever task is given me. I never complain." He hopes to be promoted soon.

As one of EK's pioneers, Uy always looks forward to its yearly anniversary, which happens to be also his anniversary. He says plans are afoot for a grand weeklong celebration, which commences on April 28. The culmination or climax will be the annual fireworks competition. "Everybody is busy preparing," says Uy. "This is always an exciting time for all of us." A happy event like this, he adds, is enough to make him or any cast member want to stay in Enchanted Kingdom and work happily ever after.

Enchanted Kingdom
The Magic Is Here!
PHOTO BY VAL HANDUMON

UY always does his best, whatever task it may be.

How to have (serious) fun at work

ILLUSTRATION BY ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

By Ernie O. Cecilia

DO you work your butt off, quarrel with an officemate or feel miserable eight hours a day? Do you hate the monotony at work or the prospect of losing your job to the computer or the uncertainly of not knowing whether you still have a company when you wake up tomorrow?

Life at work can be truly distressing. When people don't have fun at work, they die a thousand deaths before retirement day.

How can you survive the rigors of the new workplace and emerge refreshed, effective, productive, and victorious every day, and simply have fun at work?

Here are a few time-tested tips:

1. Stop being the general manager of the universe.

You're not Superman or Wonder Woman. You just can't do all the work, can't be everything to everybody and can never please everyone. Focus on what you and you alone are expected to do. Don't lose sight of the reason for the existence of your position and prioritize your day in the office.

But, you can always help others, especially when your work is done. When you help, don't take the limelight from those you help. If you are not a fireman and the left wing of your building is burning, you can help put out the fire, but remember that it is the responsibility of other experts. Never pretend to be one if you're not.

If you are a manager, delegate responsibility to your subordinates. You will develop them and you will maintain your own sanity.

2. Join a team and share your work.

Working alone can be truly lonely, while working in a team offers a broad range of possibilities for fun, learning, synergy and sense of accomplishment. In a team, the work is spread among team members, which makes the workload light for all. Teams benefit from the creativity of members and this makes work more fun.

Cross-functional teams are an emerging trend in the workplace. In fact, some companies hire employees to join a team, not a department.

3. Try telecommuting.

Try working at home once in a while. It breaks the monotony of office work. It provides a respite from the monotonous humdrum of working in your cubicle, especially when your cubicle is becoming an "Alcatraz."

Telecommuting helps eliminate office burnout. But don't spend too much time working at home. Since home is the place you go to after work, where will you go if you permanently telecommute at home? Have a good balance and you will have fun, too.

4. Think the unthinkable.

In business or career, no one can possibly achieve meaningful and lasting success by being just one of the boys, a conformist, or a face in the crowd. One has to be creative to succeed in the new workplace. People who merely claim to be creative look at things as they are and make some revisions. The truly creative ones start from scratch and challenge existing paradigms. They think the unthinkable. When you put limitations on what you can do, you will be sure that the limitations will be there.

Don't mind if they label you a nerd, weirdo or non-conformist. Enjoy being creative and have fun. As Einstein said, "Imagination is more important than knowledge."

5. Don't let failure eat you.

Everyday, you must make decisions–some simple, some earthshaking. Sometimes, you make bad decisions. Don't be too harsh on yourself. Take the bad decision as a lesson for the future. Tell yourself, "Oh that was a mistake. I'll do better next time."

Don't let failures eat you or stand in the way of another day. When you become so devastated by a failure in one aspect of your life, you begin to be so immobilized as to neglect the other facets. Hey, it's not the end of the world.

6. Be merciless with paper glut.

One of the things that spoil the fun of working is paper glut. Despite the development of an electronic means of communication, we never seem to see the end of tons of paper coming our way. Here's what I usually do so that I don't get overwhelmed with paper:

- Act on it right away
- Pass it on to someone (delegate)
- File it
- Throw it away (for factory recycling)

Believe me, the pile of papers in your inbox does not show your boss the amount of work you have to do, much less your accomplishments. Get rid of paper and have more fun.

7. Organize your day, week, and month.

Successful people know how to organize their day, week and month. When you leave to chance the things that come your way, you tend to lose control over your time, your work, your career, and even your life.

But there are a thousand and one time wasters, including phone calls, text messages, drop-in visitors, unproductive meetings, etc. Deal with them squarely but politely. I usually cut unproductive telephone conversations by simply putting down the receiver when I am talking. The other party will not think that I cut myself intentionally. When he calls again, my secretary will usually say that I had just left for an important meeting in Malacañang. (When you read this, don't call me, I'll be off to meet with the Pope!)

I remember the witty Henry Kissinger who said, "Next week there can't be any crisis. My schedule is already full."

8. Befriend technology.

There is no point in wishing that the nature of work has changed because of technology. To some employees, technology is never friendly. In fact, I admit that it's like a friend with a gift in one hand, and a dagger in another. Don't turn back, or even blink, for it might stab you.

If you want to have fun working, befriend technology. Learn and stretch your capability by using technology. It even makes learning easy and fun. When you develop yourself to be multi-skilled, you'll not run out of meaningful jobs to do.

9. Catch people doing good.

When you look for the bad in people, chances are that you will find what you're looking for. It is pathetic to catch people doing something bad or wrong. But the old school supervisors thought that it was their job—to catch people doing wrong so that they can reprimand them

Supervisors are a dying breed. The new organization has lesser layers now and there is no place for supervisors because knowledge workers can work on their own without the "help" of "snoopervisors."

If you want to have fun, catch people doing good and compliment them. Be lavish in your praise and admiration for good work, even if he is your boss. Bosses can use some compliments from a subordinate. In fact, I can live on it for a month.

10. Love it or leave it.

When you feel that you are no longer happy with your work or your company, it's time to move on. When you see an exodus of officemates to other companies or industries, don't be the last to go. Always have a ready fallback.

Get a mentor with whom you can bounce off your career ideas. Get expert advice on where to go. Plan your career early on, so that you don't get boxed in a job you'll hate for the rest of your life.

So what if you spent 15 years of your career life with a company? Don't take separation as if you are peeling your skin off with your bare hands. There is life after your present company. But don't leave without a sure alternative. The best candidates for employment are those who are still employed.

Your success in your career does not mean going up the ladder and working yourself to death in the process. Having fun at work is as important. As Christopher Morley once said, "There is only one success . . . to be able to spend your life in your own way, and not to give others absurd maddening claims upon it."

(The quthor has published twin guides on career—How to Get a Job (TIPS 2) and How to Keep Your Job (TIPS 3). These are available at National Book Store and Bookmark. He can be contacted at erniececilia@hotmail.com.*)*

Our regular columns were not published today due to lack of space. Our apologies to our readers.
–Ed.

FEP Printing team bonds through Lubid

FEP Printing Corporation, printer of the Philippine Daily Inquirer, recently completed a Team Building Program for all its employees. The program honed the organizational capabilities of the company to more effectively deliver the best value products and services to its clients who include, aside from the Inquirer, the Asian Wall Street Journal and the Cebu Daily News.

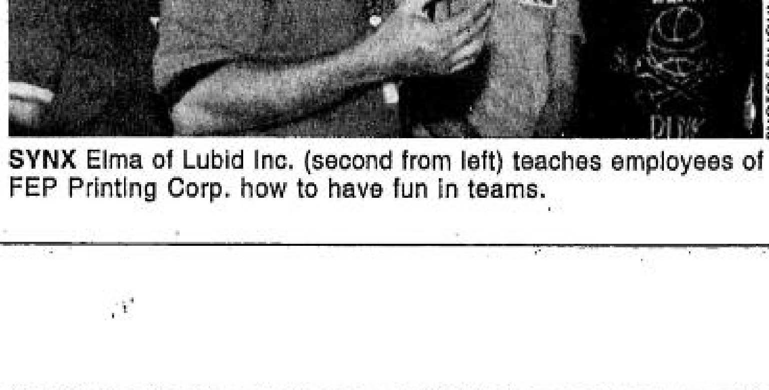
Lubid, Inc. conducted the team building program for FEP Printing at the Bluroze Farms in Batangas. Lubid is a company that conducts training programs that use outdoor adventure-type activities for learning. Lubid creates situations that challenge people to confront tasks with a perceived risk. Participants rise to the challenge and experience and learn the necessity and rewards of working well with others. The programs consist of a graduated series of events that involve intellectual, emotional and physical challenges. An example is the Ropes Course that requires participants to walk on ropes strung between trees.

ProAction Associations, proponents of the Tree Top Challenges Ropes Course in La Honda, California, trained the members of the Lubid team, through the U.S. Department of State refugee program, to conduct these special learning experiences.

Lubid trainers have provided learning experiences for over 1,000 groups and over 20,000 individuals. They can be contacted at *lubid.inc@pacific.net.ph* or telephone number 634-3465.

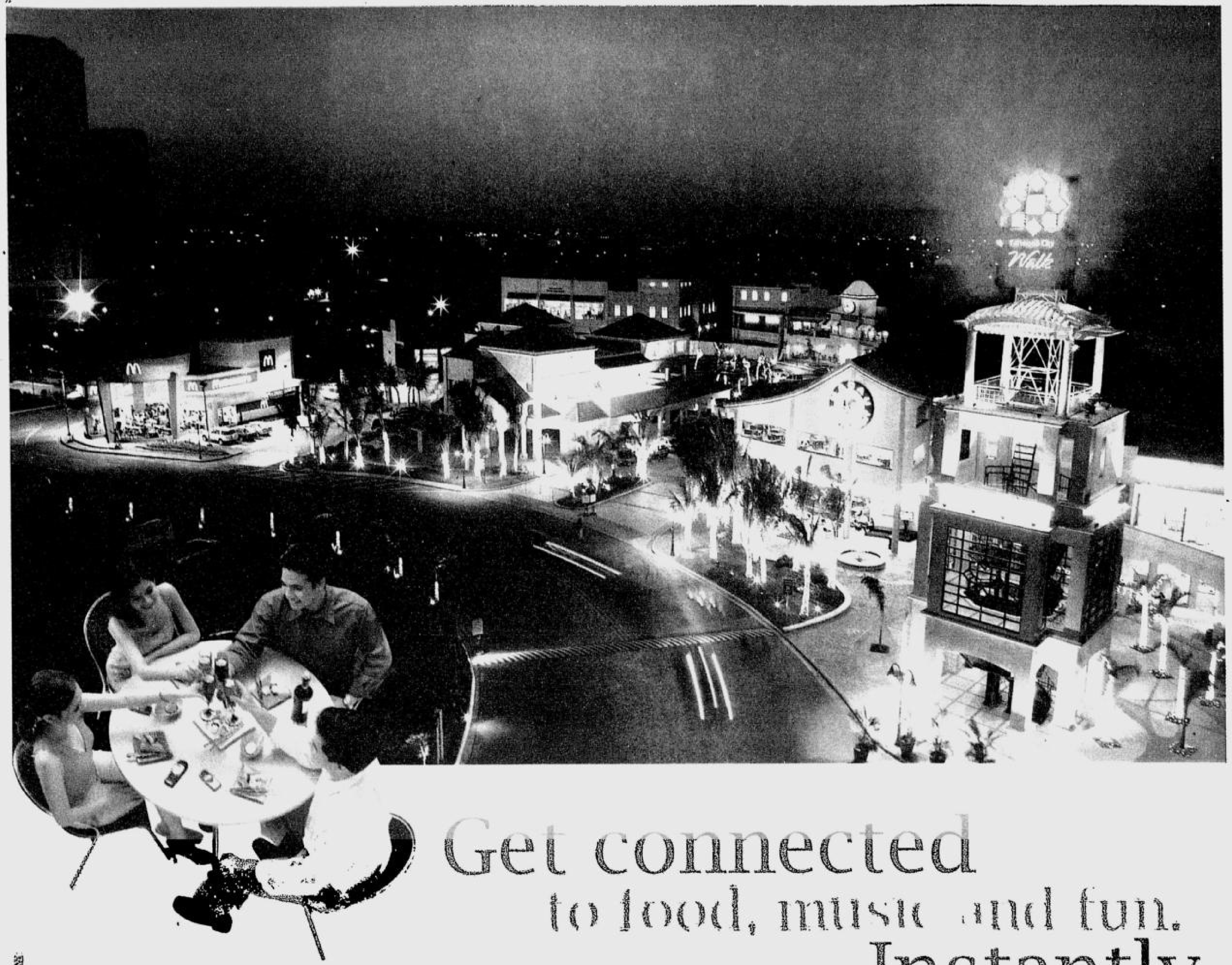
FEP Printing team tries to cross a sea of grass on a thin piece of wood.

FEP Printing employees build a team at Bluroze Farms.



PHOTOS BY JOHNNY VILLENA

SYNX Elma of Lubid Inc. (second from left) teaches employees of FEP Printing Corp. how to have fun in teams.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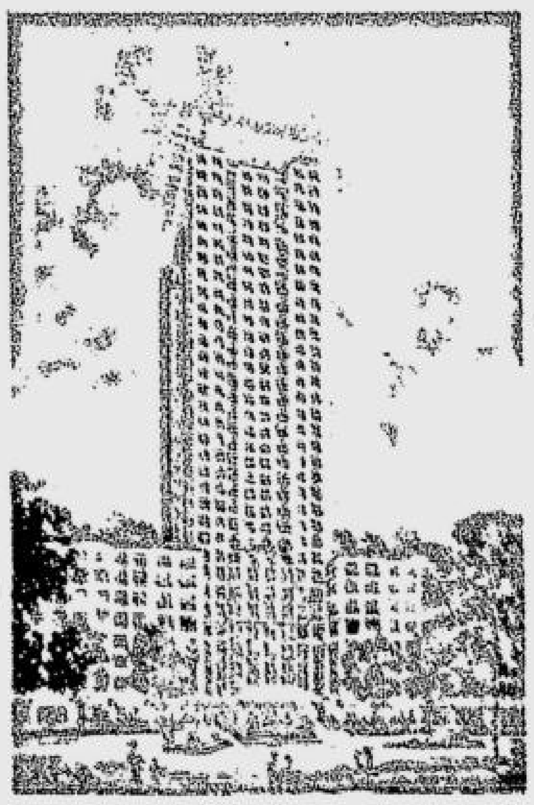

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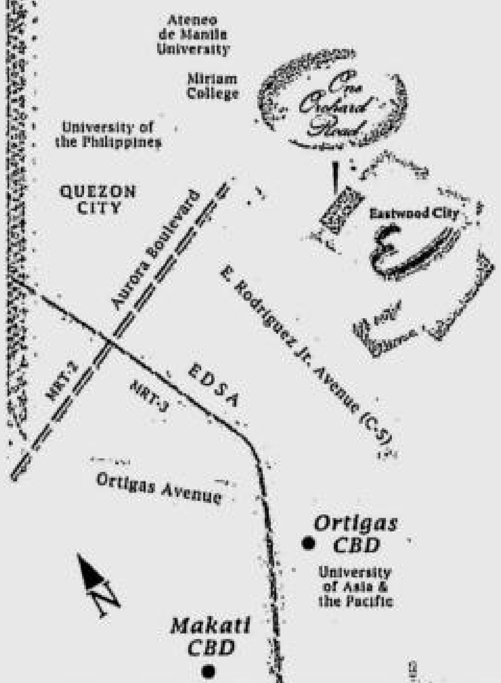
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Join us for an ALL-DAY OPEN HOUSE at the new Eastwood City Information Centre on April 28 (Saturday) and 29 (Sunday), from 9 am to 6 pm.

And don't miss the OPEN-AIR CONCERT PARTY featuring MULATTO band at the Eastwood City Walk Water Plaza on April 28 (Saturday), at 7 pm.

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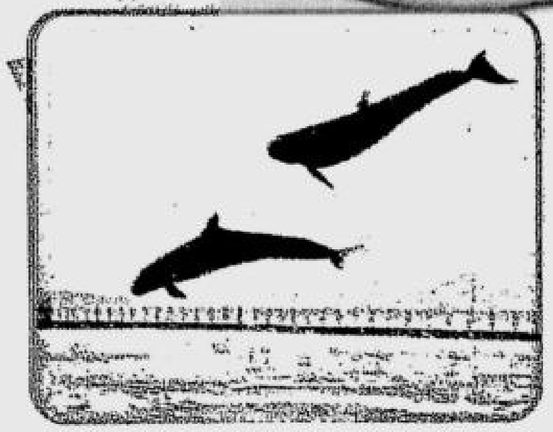

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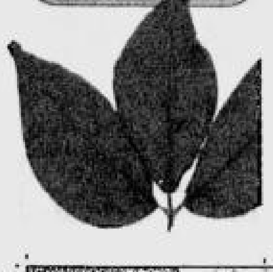

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Our Subic diary

ʼY JULES ALCANTARA AND PAM PASTOR

.PRIL 11

4 a.m.

Jules: Still up, doing my last-minute packing. Immm... I knew it was bloody hot outside but I was ctually cold and having chills. I had to get some rest ince I had to be up by 6 a.m. to make it to CCP by 7 .m.

5:30 a.m.

Pam: I woke up surprisingly perky, without my usual morning temper. For the first time in a loooong while, I didn't feel the need to hurry. The household help were shocked to hear the word "breakfast" roll off my tongue.

6 a.m.

Pam: I texted Tim to remind him to bring comfortable shoes for the afternoon hike. He called with ad news. He had a 1 p.m. deadline and wouldn't be ble to make it.

7:20 a.m.

Pam: I met Yasmine, Pinoycentral.com's PR, and abyruth, their Nightlife and Events writer, near CCP here we were to board the 7:30 ferry. We had no lea where Jules was. Yasmine was freaking out.

Jules: Oh s--t! Didn't hear the alarm go off. I hecked the cell phone—10 missed calls from Yasmine, Pam and my boyfriend Erwin, who was all the vay in L.A.—all of them apparently trying to wake ne up. Yasmine said that I can ride with Tonito Payumo of Pinoyauctions.com. I just had to meet him by 9:30 a.m. I hoped I'd make it.

7:30 a.m.

Pam: We boarded the ferry. I spent the whole one-hour trip to Bataan texting and calling other 2bU! people who might be able to go with us. Gary, our new techie guy, agreed to jump on the next bus from Caloocan to catch up with us.

8 a.m.

Jules: No one can drive me to Quezon City so I ecided to take a cab. My fever was going up.

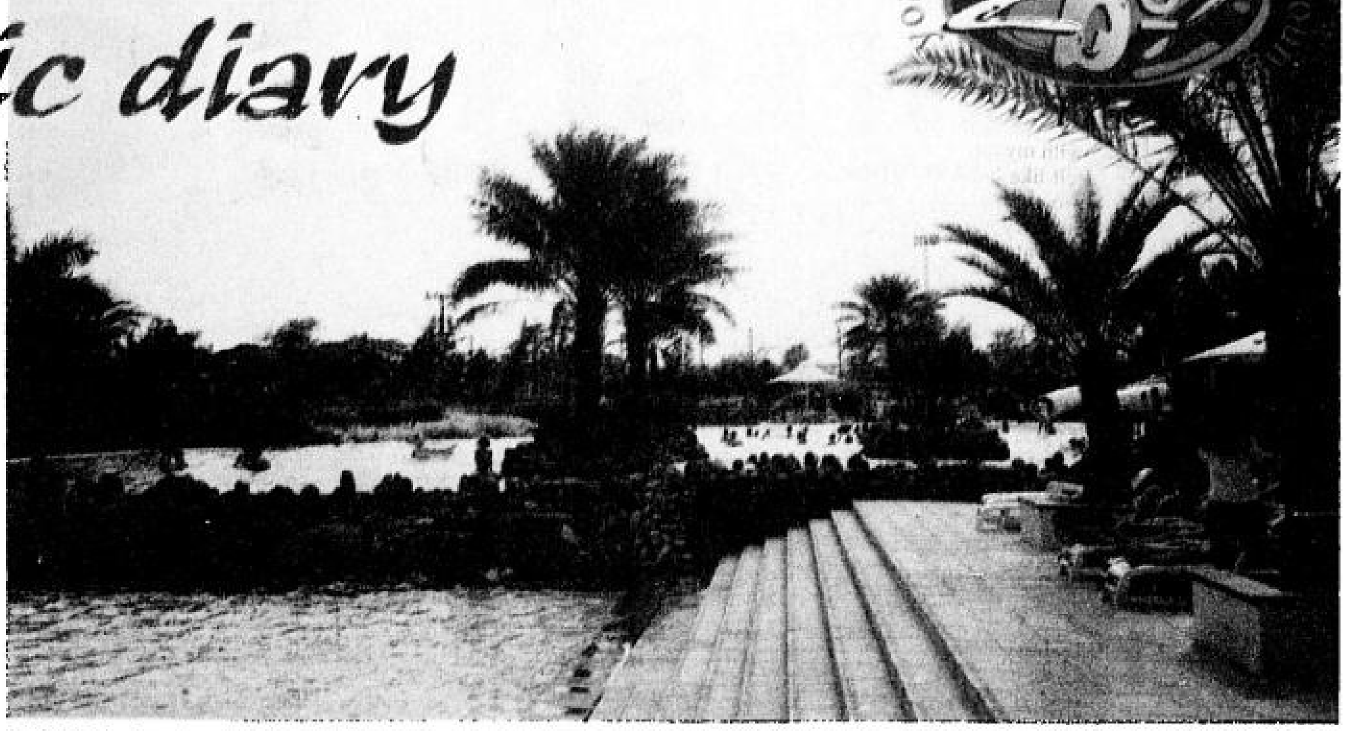
8:30 a.m.

Jules: I was still in the same area that I was in 10 minutes ago. Oh no! Traffic! People were sweating outside—the cab driver was drenched in sweat despite the aircon. But I was cold so I grabbed my denim jacket and wore it.

9 a.m.

Jules: Edsa. We were moving at a snail's pace.

9:40 a.m.



SBYC'S hot springs

PHOTOS BY PAM PASTOR

Jules: Tonito called and told me that I should just go meet him at a restaurant near ABS-CBN. Please God, give this cab wings to fly, I thought.

10 a.m.

Jules: Oh gosh, I was 30 minutes late. The guy I was hitching with was probably fuming.

10:15 a.m.

Jules: I rushed out of the cab and hauled off my bags. Thank God I didn't get hit by any of the cars driving by. Two yuppie-looking types were waiting inside the resto. Must be them. Fart! I was so late! *Kakahiya!*

I apologized profusely for being so late but Tonito said it was okay since they hadn't been waiting long. Introduced me to his friend Raymond.

Oh no, I was riding with them. Had to be polite, sociable and friendly—kind of hard since I felt sick and awful and I wanted to take a nap on the way to Subic. Plus I was dying of embarrassment for being so late.

10:18 a.m.

THE BAT kingdom

Jules: Tonito asked me to ride in the other car, with only the driver. Yes there is a God! I was able to grab some zzz's on our way to Subic.

10:13 a.m.

Pam: Finally, we were in Subic. Ate Carrie Aspa, from SBMA, fetched us from Orion, Bataan.

We dropped by the chair's office to pick up Israel—or Isra—our tour guide for the day. I just loved Isra! He was sooo funny.

And I loved the beads he wore around his wrist.

10:30 a.m.

Pam: First stop was Mangrove Trail—a beautiful reserve area. I brought a bottle of mineral water as I expected to perspire and gasp for breath. But the whole trail was traversed in 15 minutes.

The place was amazing, the view awe-inspiring—I can imagine how romantic it must be at night (might be the perfect place for a wedding proposal).

But it was over just like that. I wanted to get tired and sweaty. So when they asked us whether we wanted to go on a 15-minute trail or a two-hour hike that afternoon, I opted for the latter. I started to reconsider my decision when they told us to wear long-sleeved shirts and pants because we might get all scratched up. I didn't bring a single long-sleeved shirt. Yeah, I wanted to sweat, but I had no desire to look like a human scratching post either. Then again, I didn't go to Subic to look pretty. I wanted to relish every single experience. And that I did.

10:45 a.m.

Jules: We followed Tonito's BMW. We snaked our way out of the traffic that was fast building up in the Balintawak area. It dawned on me that the driver of the car we were following must be a frustrated race-car driver. Oh no... so much for a restful ride.

11 a.m.

Pam: Fresh from the Mangrove Trail, we headed for the chair's office in SBMA to watch a video about Subic. We met two other people from the chair's office who pretty much stayed with us during our whole trip—Ate Didette Santiago and Ate Che Raguinip.

11:30 a.m.

Pam: Checked in at the Subic International Hotel.

12:15 p.m.

Jules: Shell station was overflowing with people. Tonito, Raymond and I made small talk as I drank my mineral water. Tonito asked me how I was feeling since Yasmine informed him that I had fever. Raymond asked me if I had a boyfriend and I told him he was in L.A. "That's why you're sick," he joked.

They asked me if I wanted to ride with them. At the rate they were going, I didn't think I would be able to take a nap so I chose to stay with Mang Perfecto.

12:30 p.m.

Pam: Next stop was Subic Fishcado Grills and Seafood Restaurant for lunch with the chair.

1:55 p.m.

Jules: I woke up and found out that we were already inside Subic. A forest of greens greeted me. "*Ang sarap ng tulog mo ah*, Jules," Mang Perfecto told me.

We went to Fishcado to have a late lunch. Finally, I found Pam and Yasmine and met Babyruth of Pinoycentral and the welcoming crew of SBMA.

The guys and I shared tuna belly and garlic rice. I barely tasted the food.

2:30 p.m.

Pam: After an extended lunch, we finally left for the Apaliin Trail.

Jules: They all left to go hiking or trekking. Since I was sick (and Pam knew that I was not the outdoorsy type anyway—I'd never make it to "Survivor") I was told to go straight to the hotel to rest.

Gary arrived and we were immediately whisked to Subic International Hotel, where we were billeted.

We passed by my favorite place in Subic, the mini-golf area.

2:55 p.m.

Pam: We were on the road and I was bugging Isra to join us on the trail. Finally, he agreed. "*Sige na nga*, special request, *eh*," he said.

Tonito, Raymond, Yasmine, Ate Carrie, Babyruth, Isra and I prepared ourselves for the adventure.

Jules: The room was okay. Nothing breathtaking but the aircon was very cold and blissful and Tom Everett Scott was on HBO.

Pam: Since the hike promised to be a bit long and I needed to go to the bathroom badly, I decided to risk using the portalet. It was way better than crouching in the bushes.

Unfortunately, the precaution wasn't enough. I felt an even stronger urge to pee right in the middle of the forest. Ugh.

Minus the bathroom emergency, though, the hike was a great experience. Mang Casuy was a fantastic guide—he was such a ham.

The trek ended with a boat ride to Miracle Beach. The timing was absolutely perfect—it was almost sunrise. The sky was a beautiful sight over rippling waters.

Never mind that my trainers were all sandy. That was a memory never to be forgotten.

Like me, Isra got sand in his shoes. I felt guilty about pressuring him to go with us as I watched him scrub his suede pumps.

6 p.m.

Pam: We hurriedly headed for the Bat Kingdom since the bats started flying to look for food at exactly 7 p.m. We wanted to catch them all hanging upside down from tree branches. On the way, Yasmine asked Mang Casuy endless questions about bats.

"*Nangangain ba sila ng tao?*" Yasmine asked.

"*Oo! Dyan nga nanggagaling ang bampira, eh*," Mang Casuy said, humoring her.

"So *anong kinakain nila? Dugo?*"

Exasperated, Mang Casuy said, "*Prutas! Kaya nga* fruit bats, *eh!*"

7 p.m.

Pam: We stopped by one of the small PX stores to buy a roll of film. Of course, my huge appetite did not fail me. I just felt like I needed to stock up on Lay's Sour Cream and Onion Potato Chips, Famous Amos Chocolate Chip Cookies and ice cream.

Jules: Gary gave me a call saying he had food. I wolfed down the Little Ceasar's pizza he gave me. We surfed channels and my favorite PBA team, Pop Cola Panthers, was playing. Gary patiently listened to me as I ranted and raved about the game and asked a lot of basketball-related questions.

7:15 p.m.

Pam: We headed back to the hotel to freshen up and get ready for dinner. I collapsed on my bed. Jules was screaming, watching a PBA game.

Jules: Pam, Yasmine and Babyruth arrived from their trekking trip. Pam was drenched. They regaled me with stories of this guy who taught them survival trips. He seemed to be quite an interesting character.

They told me afterward that we were going to have dinner at the Subic Yacht Club then go bar hopping.

Pam: Gary was raiding my potato chips. I received great news. Tim was going to drive to Subic.

Jules: We were all ready. Finally. It was not easy to share one bathroom with three other girls. They were all grimy from the trip and so a long, hot shower was necessary.

8 p.m.

Pam: I went to the poolside to see my brother and relatives who were spending the Holy Week at the yacht club.

8:30 p.m.

Jules: We were in Cambusa. Tonito arrived.

Pam and I mercilessly teased Yasmine to Tonito. We were hungry and to while away the waiting time, we had to do something. Har har har!

11 p.m.

Jules: We took a car to Magellan's Landing.

A few minutes later we arrived at Magellan. Or should I say, we landed on Magellan? Nah, sounds too *pilit*.

11:15 p.m.

Jules: We were introduced to Brian Homann, the owner of Magellan. I looked around and noticed a healthy-looking parrot by the bar. Freaky but cute, I thought.

Brian asked me to hold on to a white parrot. Ewww! Of course I said no but was conned into agreeing. It wasn't so bad. The parrot was a bit heavy and I was really, really (unnecessarily) tense while holding it. Plus, Yasmine asked Ruth to take pictures. Oh no...

We finally took a table and ordered drinks. Yasmine ordered a glass of Bailey's for Pam, who is a certified nondrinker. All of us ordered our preferred alcoholic drinks. Mine was vodka tonic. It was a bit drafty since we were by the water so I needed something to make me sweat a bit.

Pam: I didn't drink. I never do. It was actually pathetic, when you think about it. They ordered Bailey's with milk for me and, get this, tons of ice. "*Ang tapang, eh*," I wrinkled my nose after trying it. They gave up. Instead of getting high on alcohol, I focused on the conversation. And since the others were downing one drink after another, it kept getting funnier. Yasmine, as usual, was spewing out a barrage of endless questions. We kept teasing her. That girl is such a sport—which is why we love her.

Jules: After a while, Pam and I keenly observed Yasmine, who seemed to be grilling Brian with her million-and-one questions. I guess there is something about alcohol that makes people less uhmmm... shy.

Pam: The alcohol was also getting to Brian, the Australian owner of Magellan's Landing. He was fooling around, saying things like, "I don't talk to reporters."

When someone asked him why he had such deep interest in shipwrecks, he drawled, "Because shipwrecks are like women."

"Hey, wait, you're trying to start a fight," we protested. He seemed to have forgotten that most of the people in front of him were females.

We decided to let him explain. "Shipwrecks are like women. You never know what you're gonna get," he continued. All right, Forrest.

I wanted to stop myself from snapping back, but I couldn't. I had to say something.

"Well, men are like plane wrecks."

There was a lot of teasing going on. But everyone fell silent.

"They explode and then they're gone," I said.

They started to hoot. "*Talagang hindi mo na pala kailangang uminom eh*," they said.

Jules: Brian urged us to get another round of drinks. I started on my second vodka tonic. I was beginning to sweat. Gary was already beet red.

Pam: When we left the place, Tonito said, "Brian is such a character." That is an understatement.

April 12

12:30 a.m.

Pam: I have to admit, I was getting a bit tired.

Jules: We decided to hitch with Tonito on our way back to Sailor's Bar. The alcohol made me forget that he was a fast driver.

We arrived at Sailor's Bar and the voice of a male singer singing an old classic love song with only a guitar as an accompaniment greeted us. We took a table and the Ates told us the Long Island Iced Tea was really good.

They were right on the mark.

We were all feeling giddy, me especially. I signaled the people with us to cajole Pam into singing. Pam has a really great voice. Finally, she agreed after the in-house singer actually went to our table to get her. I asked her to sing one of my ultimate favorites, "You Should Know By Now" by Angela Bofill.

Wow! I knew Pam was good but never really thought she was this excellent. You can quit your day job, Pam. But on second thought, scrap that suggestion—we don't want wannabes taking over, do we?

1:30 a.m.

Jules: Everyone was tired so we decided to leave S. lor's Bar. Our hosts had been up and about the w ole day so they really needed to rest.

Pam, Gary and I rode with Tonito.

':30 p.m.

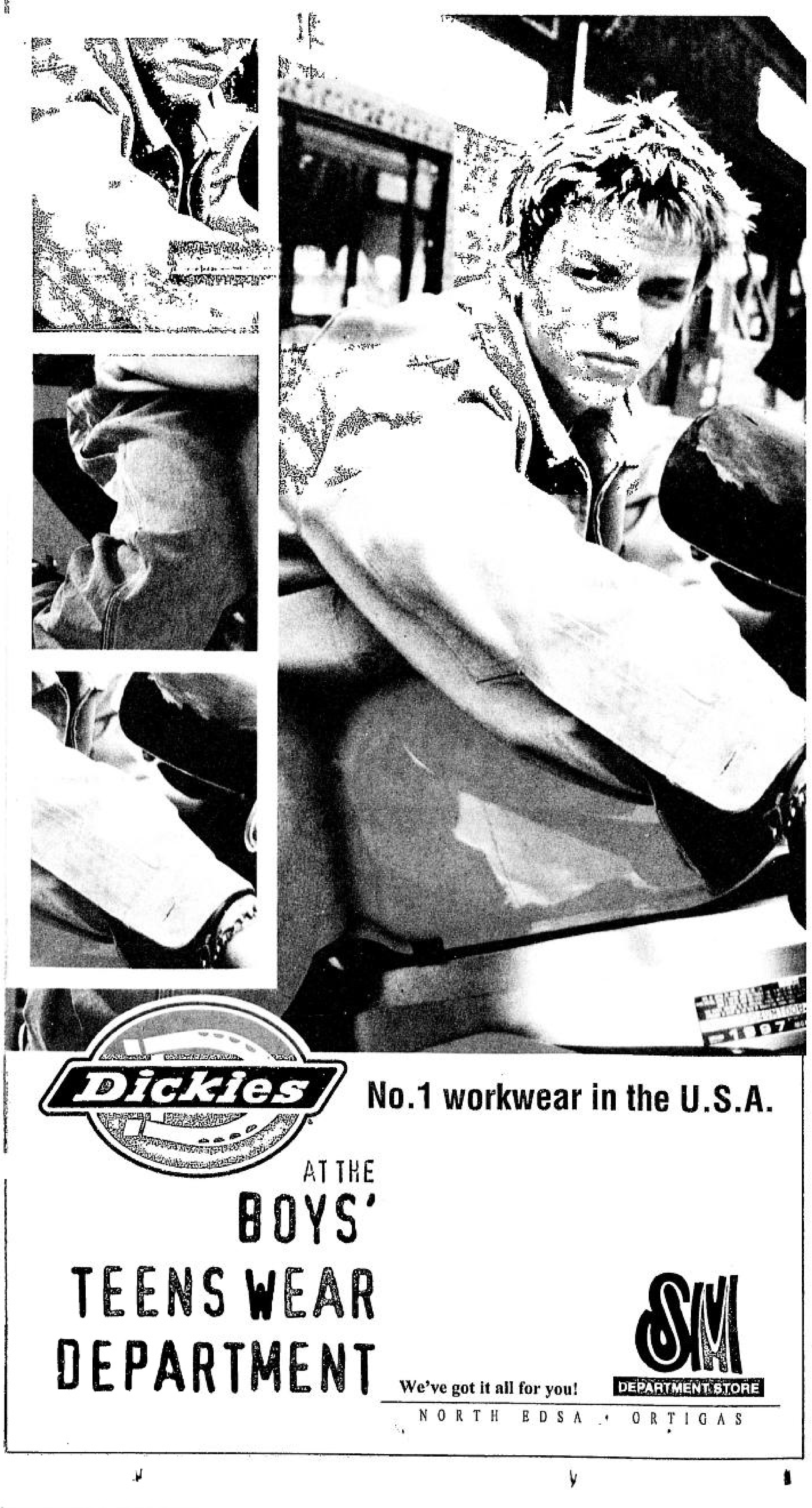
ules: All four of us were still up so we decided to driv around Subic. Since I had never been to the secc side of Olongapo, I asked Tonito to take us to the i mous bars that I have heard so much of.

W erally passed by the places and quickly made a U-turn to go back to Subic.

We kept driving and to keep people from falling

OUR/ p.C3

THE MANGROVE trail



Our Subic diary

(From page C2)

asleep, I started asking crazy questions like: "What was the most hurtful thing anyone has ever told you?" and the like. The kind of questions that people would only willingly answer if they had a drink or two.

I asked Tonito to bring us to a place where people didn't usually go. He thought for a while and drove.

He brought us to this dark, secluded area—overlooking the Subic beach. No one knows for sure if it really is a toxic area.

We continued our questions—or rather I continued the inquisition. But I could sense that they were beginning to get uneasy. It was so quiet that it was a bit eerie. There was no available light in sight except for the passing FedEx airplanes and Tonito's car lights.

3 a.m.

Pam: So there we were, standing in the middle of that deserted area. It was beautiful—in a strange way. But for the most part, I felt like I was in a scene from "The Blair Witch Project."

I don't want to creep you out, but when I feel something eerie, I'm usually right about a presence in that place.

Jules: Pam and Gary discussed a "sighting" ("There's something there," Pam said and glanced toward the trees). I looked for my rosary, just in case. Thank God, I found my rosary. I felt much safer and showed it to them.

Pam: I definitely felt something strong in that place. One in the forest behind us and another moving really fast toward us. I inched closer to my companions. Gary, the jerk, wanted to walk toward the forest. Yeah, I said. Go ahead. I flashed him my middle finger.

4 a.m.

Pam: We left the deserted area. Tonito was driving really fast.

Jules: After a few minutes, my boyfriend texted me—he was getting frantic because we lost signal and it was already late.

We finally met up with Tim and his friend Kara. Pam scooted over to the ladies room again. Tonito's love for speed got Pam dizzy and she felt like throwing up.

Pam: Being the motion-sickness-afflicted wimp that I am, the excitement was too much for me. I ended up puking all over Legenda's bathroom. A full Italian dinner down the drain.

4:05 a.m.

Pam: We decided to go for a stroll on the boardwalk in front of Legenda. The ultimate makeout place, according to Tonito.

Jules: When we got there, we decided to take off our shoes and wade in the water. After talking for a couple of minutes, we decided to head back to our hotel.

Pam: It was surreal—to be standing there, on the sandy shore of the beach, feet wet with salty water, waves crashing, the sun slowly making its way to the horizon. Excuse the poetic mode, but that was one of life's moments. Something you'd want to keep and play again and again in your mind.

Jules: My fever was back. With a vengeance. So much for sweating and vodka tonic. Tonito dropped us off at the hotel.

5:30 a.m.

Jules: We were back in the room. They planned to go swimming with the whales and go kayaking in the morning. I told Pam I won't be able to join them and would just rest. Thank God, Pam was too sleepy to convince me otherwise.

Pam and I were still making *kwento* when she just became quiet. I covered myself with the blanket and the comforter. The hotel had no more paracetamol. Ughhh.

7:30 a.m.

Pam: I woke up, and feeling like a mom, tried to wake everyone else up. We were supposed to go kayaking at 9 a.m. with Brian. Yasmine, Ruth and Gary all made it to breakfast. But we were still late. Change in plans. Brian's boat operator just left. Ocean Adventure in the morning, kayaking after lunch.

10 a.m.

Pam: Knowing that we were all looking forward to seeing the whales, I called Tim and asked him and Kara to follow. Jules was still asleep.

11 a.m.

Pam: Tim, Kara, Tonito, Yasmine and I were going to swim with the whales.

12 nn

Pam: Incredible. I couldn't think of any other word to describe our experience with Pounder. If I did nothing but spend time with her during our visit to Subic, I would still go back to Manila happy and satisfied. Marine life was never this real to me. Now, I even view the aquarium channel differently.

1 p.m.

Pam: Before heading back to the hotel to check out (Jules by this time was being bugged by the hotel people who were waiting for us to leave), Tonito drove us up to Hill 394, Subic's highest peak. I prayed that I would not get the urge to spill my guts again. Hill 394 held me a fascinated captive because of my deep interest in death and forensics. Mang Casuy told us during the previous day's trek that many Americans were killed in the area.

Jules: I woke up and saw Pam, Yasmine and Ruth dying to take a shower. They had gone swimming with the whales. We all got ready for lunch, which was going to be at A Tavola, near the duty-free shops.

1:30 p.m.

Pam: I loved their fettuccine. I was quiet most of the meal, just taking photos and sampling the house specialties. "Why are you so serious?" Gary asked. I was exhausted.

In the middle of lunch, I heard the sad news. Our kayaking trip would be cancelled since we wanted to make the last ferry in Bataan. Traveling on land would mean enduring the traffic caused by the Holy Week rush. We didn't want to waste a huge chunk of time on the road. We decided to spend our remaining time at the SBYC.

3 p.m.

Jules: We checked out SBYC. Wow, really world-class, I thought. Wish I were a member, if only for the spa.

4 p.m.

Pam: It was time for us to head back to Orion. I had the option of staying with my family there for the rest of Holy Week but I felt like I was coming down with something. I needed to get back to Manila. The trip back to Bataan and the ferry ride were uneventful—probably because I slept almost the whole time.

6:30 p.m.

Pam: We were back in Manila. Yas' sister Melissa met us as we got off the ferry and we dropped by Quickly on Taft for a bite. Jules and I were left eating and talking—a constant in our lives.

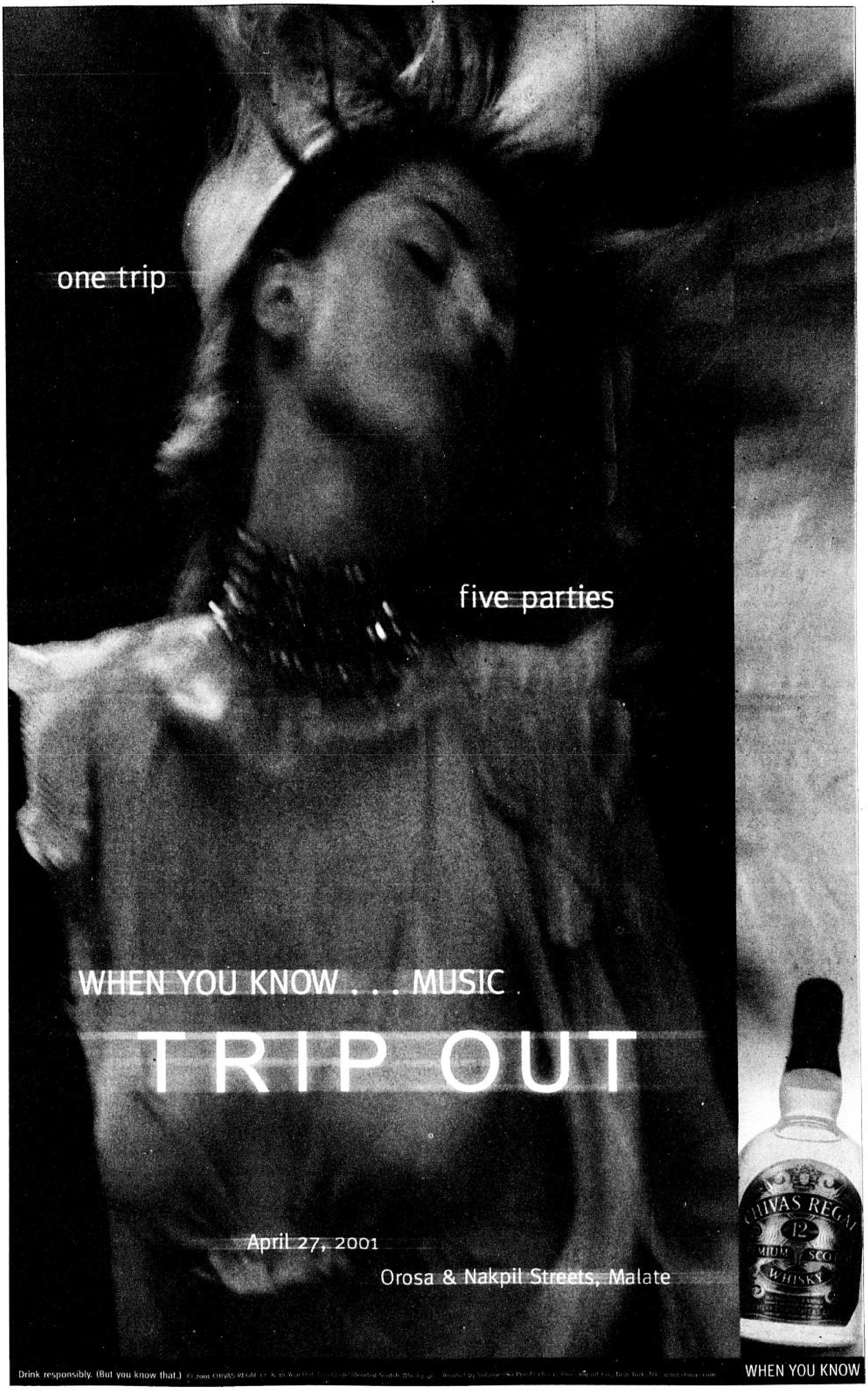
Subic was amazing. You would never run out of things to discover. The people from SBMA were right. We still had a lot to explore in Subic.

The day after I got back, I went swimming again. Naturally, the next day, I was mucus queen—too sick to get out of bed. But then, sniffles, dry cough and all, that's okay. The whole trip was worth it.

Jules: I was kind of sad to leave Subic. The trip was kind of *bitin*. I've been to Subic several times but I've never really visited all the places.

I will go back.

SBYC'S "beach"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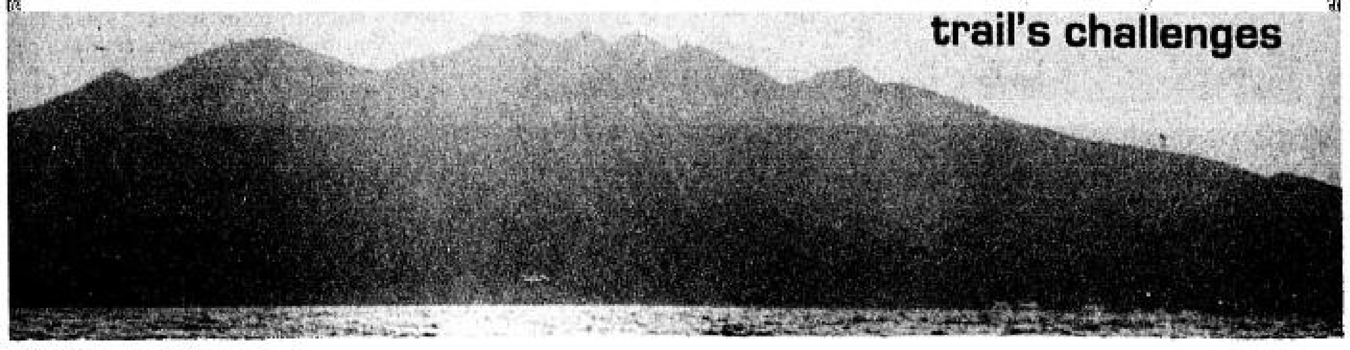


RIDING toward the sunset

THE SUN streaming through Apaliin's tree branches.

MANG **Casuy does his Tarzan imitation.**

Surviving Subic's Apaliin Trail

TEXT AND PHOTOS BY PAM PASTOR

SUBIC is home to a precious little Aeta man that goes by the name of *Mang* Casuy. This curly-haired man knows the Apaliin Trail inside out. He is everyone's favorite guide.

That afternoon, *Mang* Casuy's mission was to take us on the Apaliin Trail and give us a crash course on herbal medicine and nature. The group included Yasmine, Isra, Ruth, *Ate* Che, Tonito and Ray Babst. All of us eager to start, we trooped from the bus in comfy clothes and sneakers, ready to face the challenges of the trail.

Challenge No. 1

I needed to use the bathroom—badly. Both sides of the road were covered with trees and bushes. No hope of finding a restaurant with a decent washroom. I was thinking of holding it in, but the trail promised to be a bit long. I couldn't take chances. There was a mint green portalet off the side of the road. That would have to do.

"Don't look, don't look," I chanted to myself in the cramped toilet. I didn't. And I survived.

Mang Casuy led us into the trail. Naturally, there were trees everywhere. The natural shade protected us from the sun, making the trail comfortably cool. At least it wasn't as humid as they said it would be.

As we began walking, *Mang* Casuy pointed out plants we should avoid. Some were poisonous, others might cause skin irritation.

It was more than just a walk in the woods. We learned about the Aeta culture—firsthand.

The three snakes

He showed us what young Aeta children played with—whistles made out of bamboo. He even showed us how to make love potion to reel the man or woman of your dreams in. He showed us the burial practices of his tribe.

"Umm, *dito ba sila nililibing*?" I asked.

"*Hindi*," *Mang* Casuy said.

I chuckled in relief. But my relief came too soon.

"*Dahil nandito ang tinatawag naming* Triboa," he continued.

Tri-what?

"*Ang tatlong* boa constrictor *na nakatira dito*."

Okay. I moved closer to Yasmine and companies.

The road is not at all difficult to trek. Even kids do it. There is a clear path, although some parts have fallen over trees that you have to climb.

As I looked at the dried leaves, branches and piles of rock surrounding me, I reminded myself not to think about the "Blair Witch Project."

Mang Casuy, aside from being a fantastic guide, is a very talented actor. He feigned sickness and started plucking leaves that would cure him—the perfect way to demonstrate herbal medicine.

Mang Casuy had a lot of surprises for us. He would suddenly disappear, and we'd find him, many feet above us, hanging from a vine. We had a real Tarzan in our midst.

Another thing that blew me away was the fact that he led us through the whole trail barefoot. Forget the giant ants and the rocks—they were no big deal for this man.

On the way, he made us eat leaves. Uh huh, you read it right. We **ate** leaves. Although we were hesitant at first, we were soon chomping away. *Mang* Casuy is such a charmer you couldn't say no.

The leaves were good, too. There were some that tasted like green mangoes (Where's the *bagoong*?); there were others that tasted like *kamias* and *siniguelas*.

Doom

We also drank water from bamboos. *Mang* Casuy chopped a part of the tree and held it over our tilted heads so we could drink the fresh water.

After an hour or so, I felt something bad. I needed to pee—again. I made a big mistake when I grabbed a bottle of mineral water from the coaster's cooler. I crossed my fingers and hoped for the next few minutes to pass by quickly.

RUBBING two sticks together to make a fire. Well, almost.

Then I heard words that spelled my doom. "*Wala pa tayo sa kalahati*," another Aeta said. Oh no.

I began to trek fast. Really fast. Maybe, if I went faster, the others would be inspired, too. Soon, I left them behind. I was climbing right behind *Mang* Casuy. He noticed my change of pace.

"*Ang lakas n'yong maglakad* ma'am, *ah. Pwede kayo sa militar*," he said. I couldn't laugh. My tummy was beginning to hurt.

I continued to move fast as I made small talk with our guide. I asked him how he learned about herbal medicine. "*Kasama na yan sa kultura ng mga* Aeta. *Buhay na namin 'yan. Turo pa ng magulang ko.*" Aeta kids start learning when they're 10 years old.

Despite the interesting conversation, I still couldn't forget my need for a bathroom. I wasn't about to drop my pants there and hide in the bushes, especially not after *Mang* Casuy's stories about pythons there. I continued to move fast.

Mang Casuy said again. "*Ang bilis n'yong pumanik. Ang lalaki ng hakbang niyo*, ma'am. *Baka pwede kayong mag-asawa ng* Aeta." I smiled.

Fire in the woods

We continued to trek, stopping every once in a while so *Mang* Casuy can share stories with us about the trees and plants found there. I picked up a few leaves and a flower, but they all shriveled up in my bag.

Mang Casuy demonstrated how to start a fire using a bamboo. A small slab of bamboo may be used for an entire week, according to him.

"*Marami pa sanang pwedeng ituro, pero hindi na tayo makakabunto. Baka abutin tayo ng dilim.*"

Thank god. It was fun, enriching and all, but I had no desire to prance around the forest at night.

We were sweaty, some of us were panting. I could see that the feet of Yasmine, who made the mistake of wearing moccasins, were all red.

Soon, we found ourselves in a clearing—a steep area still covered with plants and trees called Apaliin Point. It was overlooking the ocean. The view was breathtaking.

We made our way down the steep cliff, with the help of *Mang* Casuy's strong hand. Slowly and steadily we made our way to the motorized banca that was waiting for us below.

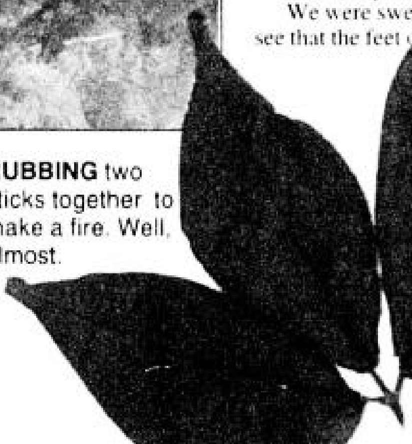
Postcard moment

When we started moving, all thoughts of mosquito bites and scratched arms disappeared. The tiredness was neglected, the sticky perspiration on our bodies completely forgotten.

We whooped and shrieked like little kids as the water hit us. The boat continued to sail toward the sunset. It was beautiful—a postcard moment. I couldn't stop taking pictures.

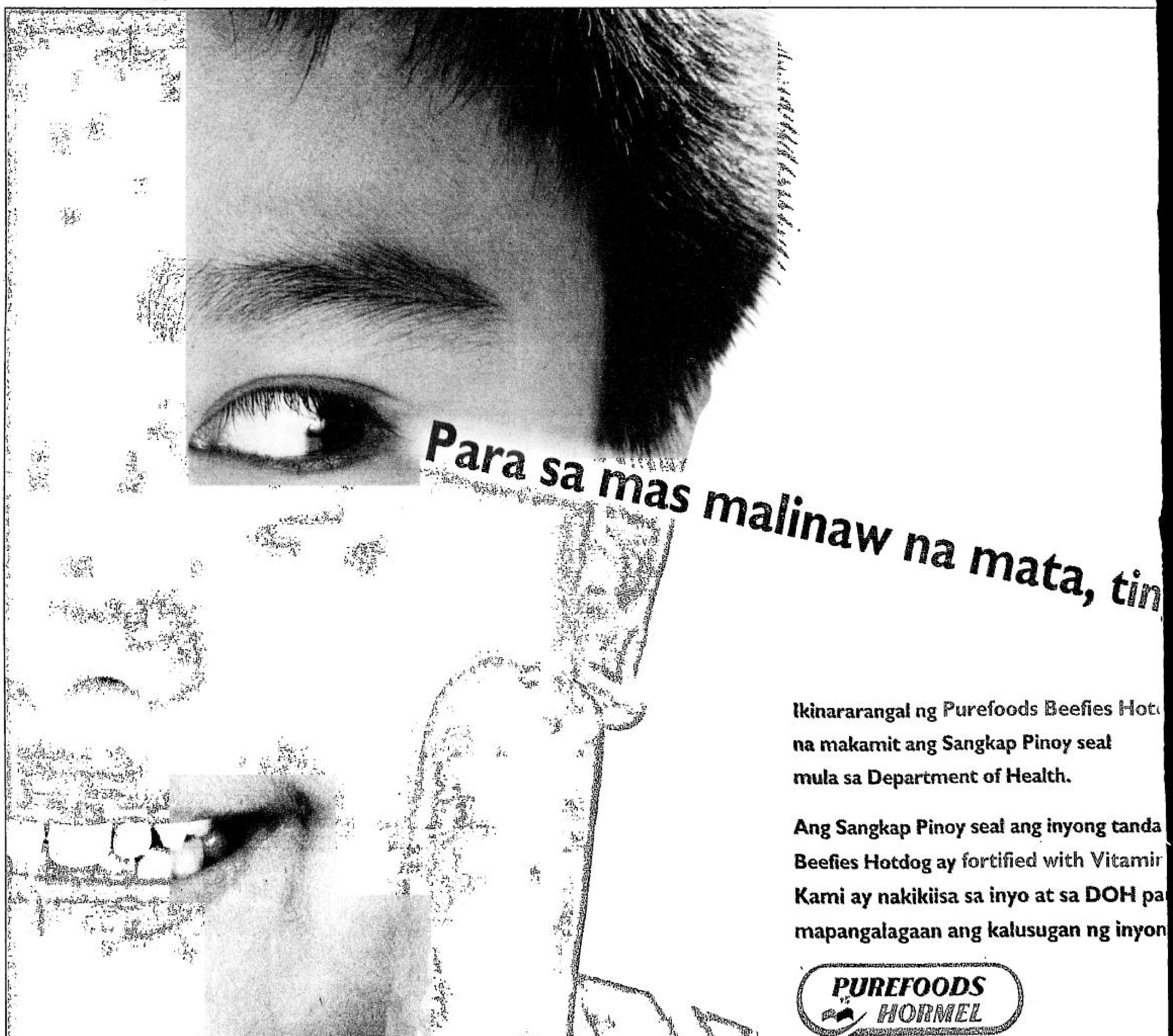
The trail was memorable, not because it was tiring but because it brought us closer to nature.

We docked at Miracle Beach, where our shoes got all wet and sandy. Nobody cared. We were still overwhelmed by the bliss of total nature immersion.



MANG Casuy stuck leaves on our chests.

THINK "Blairwitch" minus the creepy rocks and hanging sticks.



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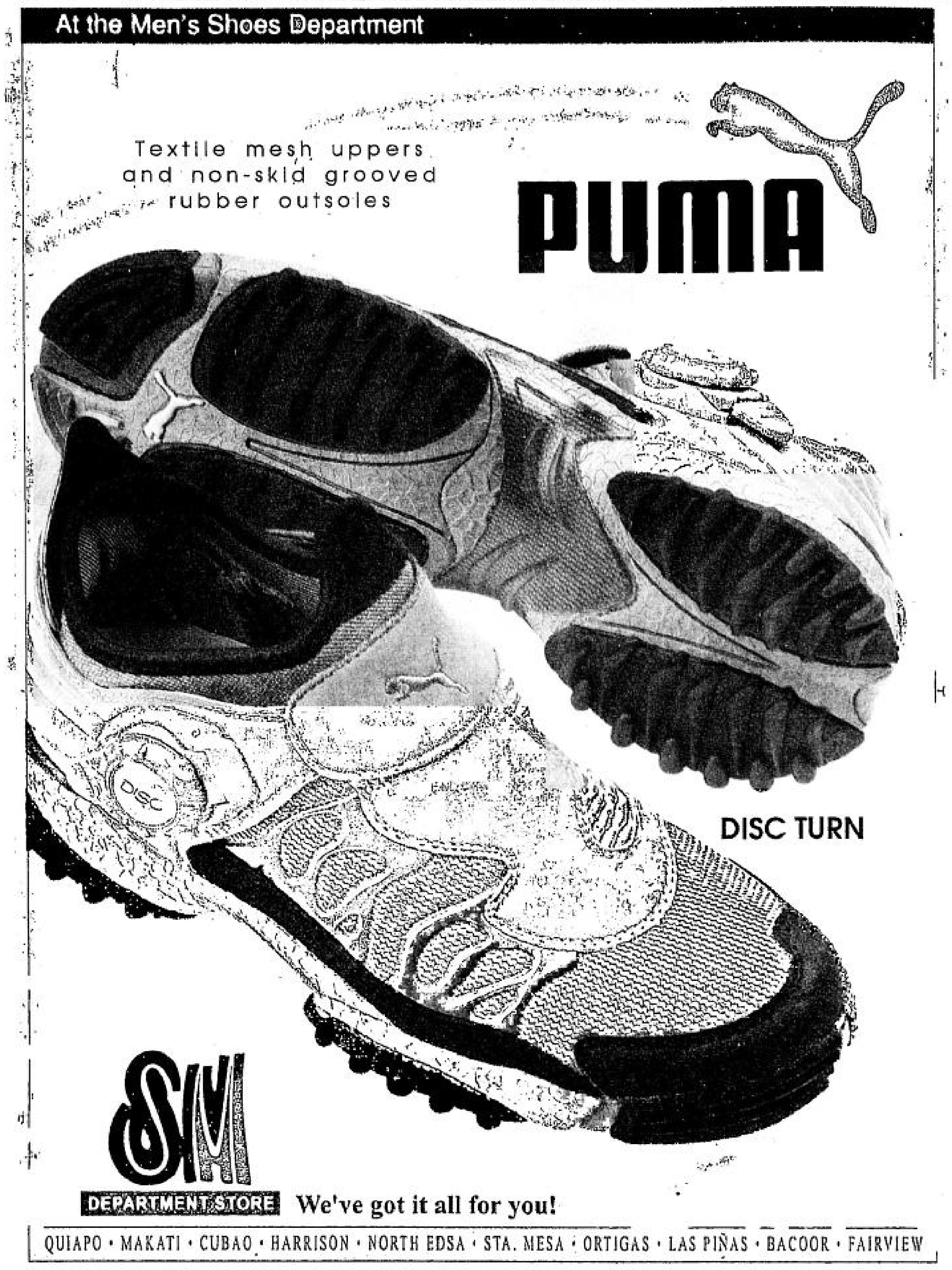

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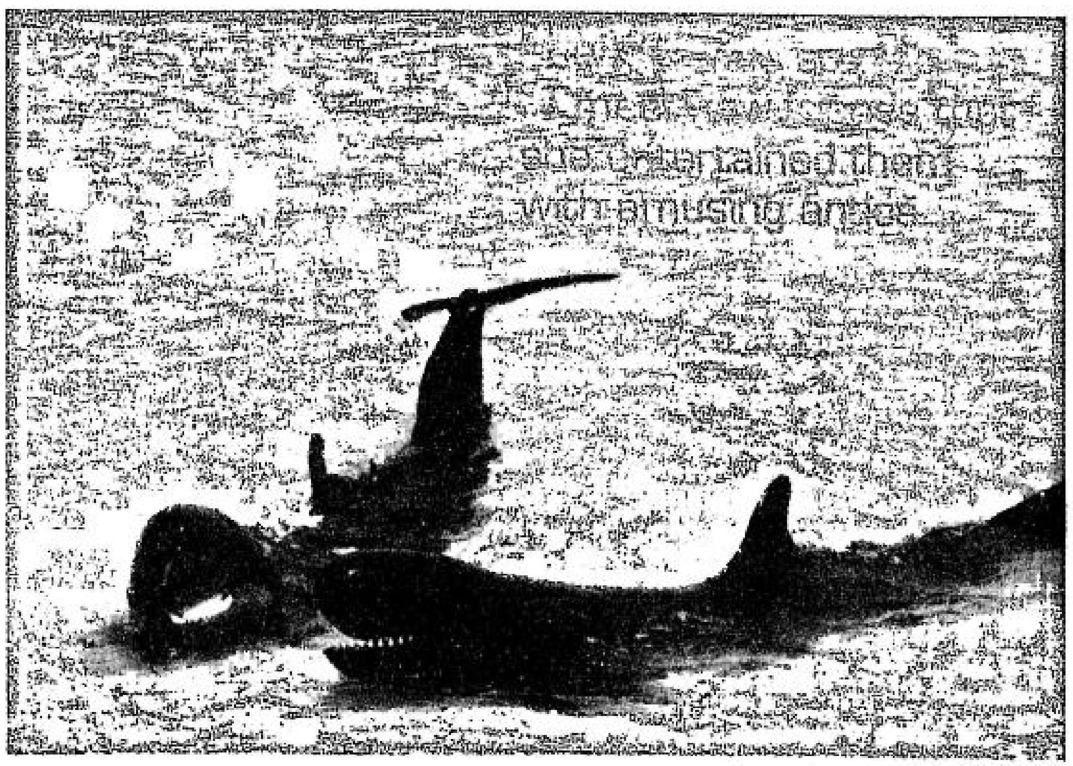

she entertained them
with amusing antics

PAM PASTOR

Whale watch

BY TIM YAP

THERE is a running joke in Subic that the monkeys you see on the highway are of high-maintenance that if you give them Chippy, they won't accept it. Throw them Pringles—only then would they be happy.

Not so with the whales we went "swimming" with.

See, Subic has this very interactive nature thing—go kayaking in its waters with fish jumping all over, hobnob with the monkeys on the highway and hug some whales in the sea.

Yes, hug them, kiss them and dive with them.

"This is the only spot in the world where you can do this," said the extremely accommodating Australian trainer Brian Homann as Pounder, the 15 ft or so long and 3 ft wide friendly whale we met at Subic's Ocean Adventure, swam along with us. "Others go swimming with sharks or whale watching—you will be swimming with whales."

Parade of sea creatures

We got there before lunch, just in time for the briefing. A lady explained to us, a small crowd of Subic explorers composed of media colleagues and locals, how the whales behave, how we should behave, the birds and the bees, etc..

I was sidetracked from the lecture as I watched the sea mammals parade proudly, jumping up and down the water like high-school cheerleaders in a street festival.

After we fastened our life vests, we were ready to go. We were divided into two groups and occupied each side of a boat which followed the direction of the leaping whales. We stopped right smack in the center of the bordered part, and right then and there the whales surrounded us.

THE AUTHOR (extreme left) with Pounder, the whale
BABYRUTH VILLARAMA

"This is Pounder," the trainer told us as he clapped his hands. Slowly, just like a submarine going up the surface, Pounder rose from the side to our center, face up, opened her mouth, smiled and made a welcoming sound.

I felt as if I was in some Disney movie mingling with some amiable creature from the deep. All of a sudden, fascinating stories from diver friends came to mind. I realized we were in the company of a friend.

Pounder made more high-pitched sounds, as though telling us how glad she was to meet new friends. Her outbursts sounded like a dolphin's or a seal's blended with a trumpet's tone, reverberating with cheerful vibe—and, just like a new playmate, she was excited to show us some tricks.

Pounder as 'Jaws'

She "marched" on the surface of the water, went down, then startled us by suddenly going up. Next, she flapped her fins and made a splash. Soon, we were playing water games with her, pushing the water in her direction. Pounder would play sport and just welcome our amusement.

Next she would jest and do her interpretation of Jaws—complete with the mouth-up countenance of filmdom's most famous killer shark—to which we would cheer and applaud and reward her with fish, which she so dearly enjoyed.

Later, each of us got to hug Pounder. We would put our arms horizontally in front of us, then she would dive deep and spring up right between our palms, also bussing our cheek along the way.

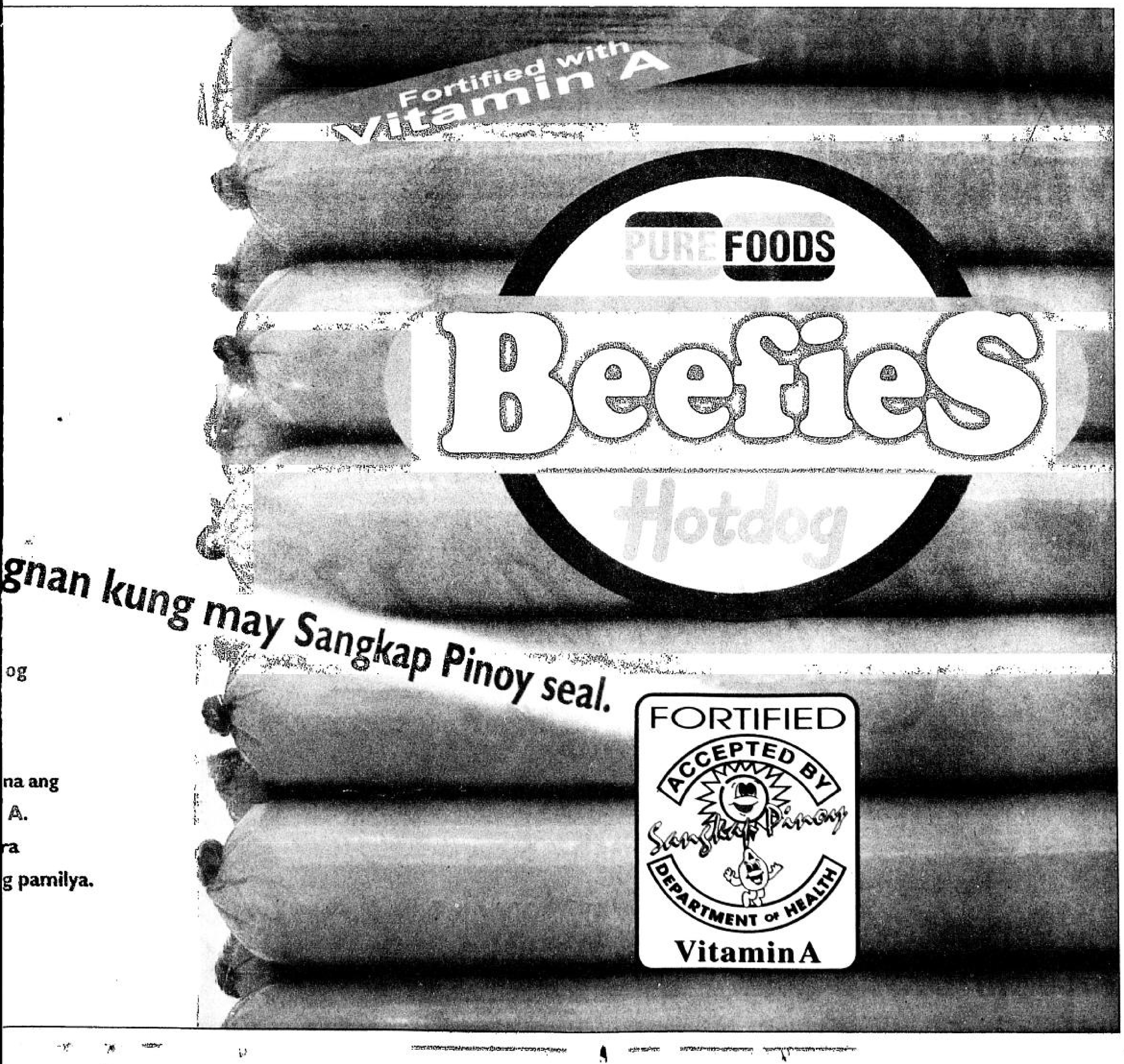
Pounder's skin felt sturdy and smooth. It was like touching a slick rubber boat, only this one exuded with energy and vibrance.

We ended the session by leaving our boat and, with the guidance of the well-trained sea staff and with our life vests intact, we headed toward the distance where we once again frolicked with Pounder.

We took turns in feeding her with her favorite fish one last time. She seemed really happy.

Now, if she asked for caviar, that's another story.

PinoyAuctions.Com, an online auction site, is offering this unique experience of encountering whales at discounted rates by bidding for it online. Lucky bidders will get the chance to interact and pet the whales by just logging on at www.pinoyauctions.com travel section. Other Subic adventure packages such as kayaking, rappelling, war games and many more are also up for auction. Check out other travel packages to exotic destinations which offer up to 70 percent discounts



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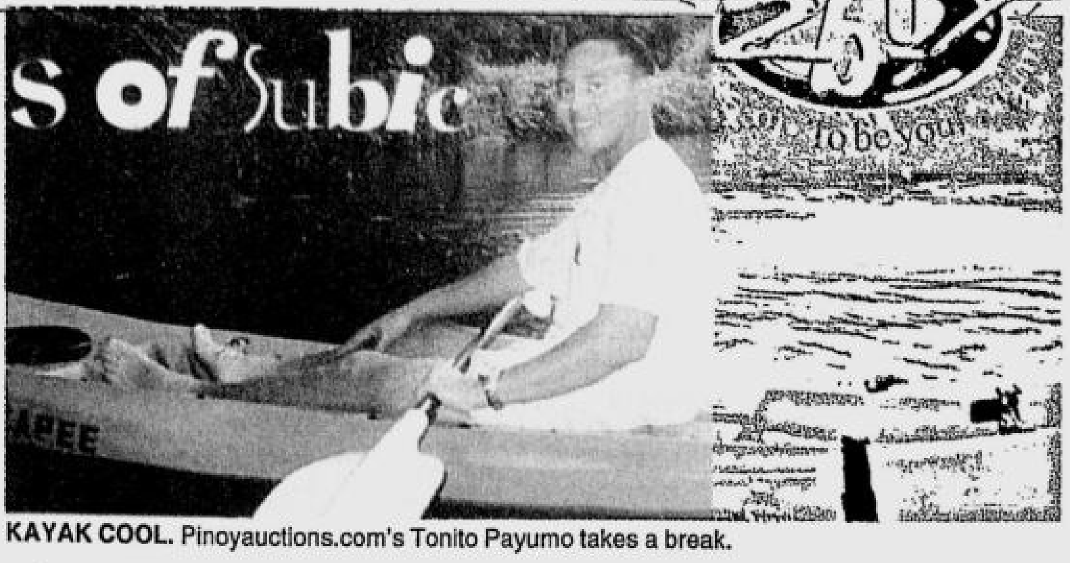
Trekking through the waters of Subic

THE VIEW FROM BEHIND. Four kayaks ready for the taking

TEXT AND PHOTOS BY TIM YAP

YOU can't stop progress, you just have to build around it." So said Australian expat and Subic-based mover Brian Homann as we paddled through the waters of the Subic.

It was my first time to go kayaking—I'm definitely not the outdoorsy type of guy, more like the indoor-relaxation and leisure kind; spoiled, to say the least. When I'm on the beach, I would sleep all day or read a book within the air-conditioned comforts of my hotel room, and wake up and say hello to the world come sunset or beyond.


KAYAK COOL. Pinoyauctions.com's Tonito Payumo takes a break.

Then again, I'm one who would never back out on a spur-of-the-moment adventure. So when my friend, PinoyAuctions.com president and Subic scion Tonito Payumo, asked me over lunch if I wanted to go kayaking with him, I said emphatically, without even knowing what to expect, "Yeah, super!"

So, there I was without a clue in the world how the journey would be, at the bayside bar cum museum cum lounge cum exotic bird (they drink beer and really get drunk, would you believe?) sanctuary Vasco's (which Brian himself put up) at Magellan's place in Subic.

"This whole place used to be a giant boulder." Tonito explained. "Brian built everything within a year."

Changing the topic, I asked, "We're going to ride in twos, right?" thinking it would be like those seemingly easy teamwork stuff.

"Nope. It's one to one," Brian answered.

Yikes, I muttered to myself.

Side-swamped

A military-looking motor boat soon came with four multicolored kayaks on its tail. Tonito got the first pick of the blue baby boat, my friend Kara Tolentino (another spur-of-the-moment adventurer) and Brian got the red, and I the orange one, since it also matched the color of my shirt. (I'm sure you won't believe me, but I didn't do that on purpose.)

Brian and Tonito, like the pros that they are (I later learned this was Tonito's first time to kayak in Subic), went ahead. They presumed we knew how to as well. It seemed practical—left, right, left, right…

At first I was moving forward. Later on, my kayak had other plans—it just kept on going right, so right that I headed straight into the mangroves! Then, I would use my paddle to push my kayak out against the rocks, and I would turn around, headed onto the other direction, again, going to the direction of the bushes—I had never been more "side-swamped" in my life.

Later, some perky jumping fish just flew into my kayak. Another hopped in between Kara's legs.

"Are you, guys, okay?" Tonito, the impeccable host that he is, asked.

"Yeah, super!" I remarked, trying hard to balance as I got the fish by the tail and put it back in its rightful home.

A few controlled and consistent strokes later (not to mention looking like the swamp thing with all those leaves, twigs and mud all over me), I was able to correctly balance and go with the river's flow. And just like life, after the hardship, you get to appreciate it more, realizing the beauty that lies in front of you.

BRIAN Homann

KAYAK CRAZY. Kara Tolentino and the author at Subic Bay

Subic's secret hideaway

This is Subic's secret hideaway, I thought. Seeing all that splendor—the overcast sky served as perfect backdrop to the lush greenery that unfolded with each path we smoothly trekked. It was like we were traveling to another world—one of tranquility and peace. This kind of progress that I witnessed was breathtaking.

In the one-hour-plus of kayaking that we did, we passed by some beaches, a 16th-century Spanish ship docked on a Subic shore, some construction workers out for a dip, even past the main highway! On our way back, it started to rain. At first it came in trickles, and then it poured.

Instead of getting scared, I was focused on my rhythmic paddling. I was challenging myself to reach the shore first, so I was pushing it hard, at the same time enjoying the pace of the ride and watching the raindrops' synchronized dance on the water's surface, and how delightful it was not to care about getting soaked in the rain.

Pardon my being philosophical, but that simple yet eventful ecotourism kayak ride further enhanced what I've always believed in—that life is a matter of perspective. Beauty is how you see it; your happiness and success depends on you.

In the middle of our trip, with our two kayaks side by side, Brian stopped paddling, looked at our radiant surroundings, then, with a Zen-like aura, he turned to my direction and said, "Here, life is good."

Yeah, super.

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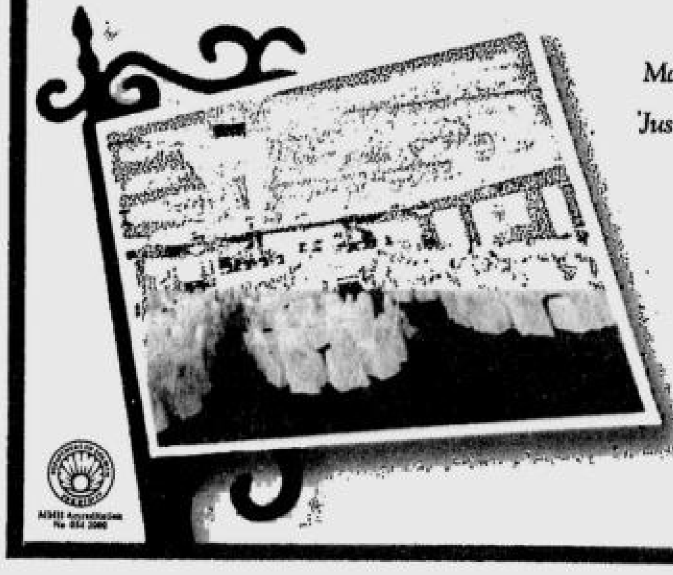

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Subic directory

Here are more reasons to go to Subic this summer:

April

- Philippine Cycling Circuit Races
- Inter-Freeport Sports Festival (basketball, volleyball and tennis)
- Beach Festival—various water sports activities at the Waterfront Beach
- Great Bikini Bodies and Band Competition at the Waterfront Beach

May

5—Escapade 2001 Live Concert featuring Side A at Remy Field (tickets at P300, P500 and P700)

5-6—Philippine Cycling Circuit Races

12—KAPPT live concert featuring Regine Velasquez at the Remy Field

19-20—Subic Summer Adventure and Musicfest

20—Nickelodeon Asia's Children Treasure Hunting Game

25-27—SBMA Celebrity Challenge—Star Olympics at the Waterfront

Call SBMA's Special Events Department

If you're planning to visit Subic anytime soon, here are a few numbers you might just need:

- Mt. Samat Ferry Express Inc. (has eight trips to and from Manila daily), tel. 551-5290
- Ocean Adventure, (047) 252-5880 to -82
- SBMA, (047) 252-4615/32/35/36
- SBMA Ecotourism Department, (047) 252-4193/4032
- SBMA Special Events Department, (047) 252-4194
- Subic Fishcado Grills and Seafood Restaurant, (047) 252-3189
- Subic Bay Yacht Club, (047) 252-5211 local 1132 or 844-5777

Bacolod student wins Globe Telecom academic award

JINOE Morcilla Gavan, 22, who has just graduated with a degree of electronics and communications engineering from the University of St. La Salle in Bacolod City, is this year's over-all winner in the annual Globe Telecom Academic Achievement Awards (GTAAA).

Now on its sixth year, the GTAAA is Globe Telecom's core social responsibility program.

From his days at the St. La Salle Integrated School to the University of St. La Salle, Jinoe has always been an achiever and a leader recognized by both superiors and peers. In fact he received both the Department of Science and Technology scholarship award and the College of Engineering leadership award in college.

Aside from his academics, Jinoe is involved in extra-curricular work with sociopolitical affairs, journalism and the student arm of the Institute of Electronics and Communications Engineers of the Philippines.

Jinoe also continues in his drive to achieve through his interest in computer graphics, communications systems and fine arts.

As for the GTAAA, Jinoe feels it is "a great program that provides excellent exposure to graduating students. It can add to one's experience and confidence as one prepares himself for the real world."

JINOE Morcilla Gavan

There are 16 college awardees and 19 high school awardees of the GTAAA this year, from the metropolis (Makati, Mandaluyong, San Juan, Pasig and Marikina) and Southern Luzon (Cavite, Batangas, Mindoro and Palawan) to the Visayas (the cities of Cebu, Dumaguete, Bacolod and Iloilo) and Mindanao (Lanao del Norte and Sur, Sultan Kudarat, Maguindanao and North Cotabato).

As this year's overall awardee, Jinoe will receive a cash prize and a trophy of excellence.

"We place a high degree of importance on community-related projects which make a difference in the lives of many Filipinos," says Globe chair Jaime Augusto Zobel de Ayala II. "It is our hope that the GTAAA's continuing recognition of outstanding Filipino youths will inspire all of us to contribute our share in the difficult task of nation-building and thus secure the future of our children."

This hope is shared by the staff behind the GTAAA—Globe SVP lawyer Rodolfo A. Salalima, AVP Jones T. Campos, senior manager Cynthia H. Evidente, supervisors Carlos Andres M. Jazmines, Marigold Y. Endriga and Mozart A.T. Pastrano, officers Stephanie Y. Velasco, Melissa T. Fontanilla and Esther C. Tanquintic-Misa, and staff Steve R. Piczon, Allan A. Cuevas, Ligaya V. Santolices, Geraldine Santos, Violeta Restua and Sergio Bancoleta.

Be a part of 2bU!

Want to meet your favorite 2bU! correspondents? Want to answer our polls and get your answers printed in future 2bU! issues? Then head for 2bU!'s Mexican Bar in this month's Scene Team at The Town Plaza, Alabang Town Center. We'll be there every day until Sunday, 4-8 p.m. We will conduct surveys and whip up tacos for you. Relax and enjoy our Mexican treats while reading past 2bU! issues. See you there!

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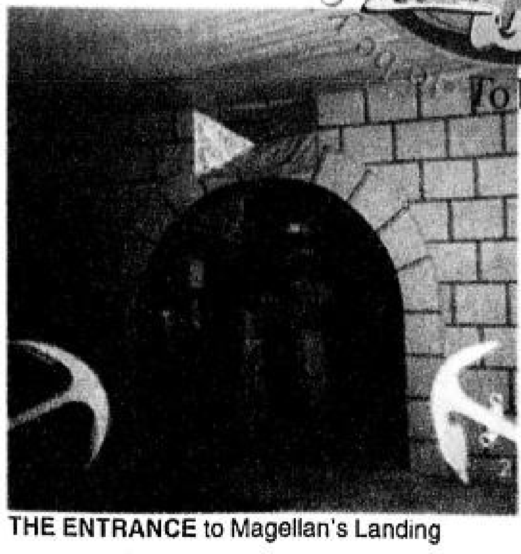


THE ENTRANCE to Magellan's Landing

MAGELLAN'S pond

Olongapo by night . . . Subic, that is

BY JULES ALCANTARA

TO MOST, Subic is synonymous with in-demand PX goods at the duty-free shops. And in the recent years, since it became accessible to the greater public, Subic turned into a place of refuge for those who need to be away from the madding crowd.

Yes, folks! Subic does have a nightlife. And FYI, it is not all seedy and skanky as you think it is

But, seriously, when we think of nightlife, we immediately visualize the infamous and controversial places that used to be found in Olongapo.

Little did we know that Subic has a booming nightlife. And FYI, there is a distinct disparity between the "bars" outside the gates of Subic, and the bars and restaurants inside the former US naval base.

Yes, folks, there is a so-called nightlife in Subic. Among the various hot and happening places in Subic, there were two places that caught our fancy during our trip to Subic recently. One is a newly opened bar with a good view of the various privately owned yachts docked in Subic Yacht Club. The other is one of Subic's well-kept secrets, a must destination especially for first-time visitors.

Magellan's Landing

If you want to impress a first-time visitor and you happen to bring him/her to Subic, then Magellan is the ultimate destination. It is more or less a five-minute drive from Subic Yacht Club. Magellan's location used to be a call station for yachts and ships.

An antique motorcycle greets you at the entrance. One can see a cannon, a statue of Captain Hook, a mast of a ship and real, live parrots flying and cackling inside the bar, which is also described as one of Subic's well-kept secrets. The crowd is composed of locals and expats—and if you decide to come alone, white and green parrots will provide you with good company and hopefully intelligent conversation. Just make sure you order french fries and beer—for the parrots. They serve excellent hamburgers, roast pork and roast beef, in typical huge American servings.

Brian Homan, an Australian who has lived in the Philippines for 23 years, owns the restaurant cum museum. An intense interest in underwater archeology led him to the country. He has worked with the National Museum since 1983, specifically with the underwater archeology division. His passion for ships is very much reflected in his restaurant.

When asked to describe his restaurant, he answers, "It's mine." Perhaps this is why the place, despite of its uniqueness, is very relaxing and laid-back.

It is not an exaggeration to say going to Magellan is an experience. And if you do decide to visit, check out the ceiling fans. They are a brilliant conversation-starter

Sailor's Bar

A stone's throw from the Subic Yacht Club, Sailor's Bar is one of the newest places to hang out in the industrial zone. The first thing one notices are the big glass windows, which gives people a good view of the yachts and speedboats docked in the yacht club.

If ambience is of prime importance, then this is the place for you. There is something so breathtaking and peaceful about the sight of the sea and the ships. Imagine the view and a good bottle of wine or your favorite beer. Soothing is the perfect word to describe.

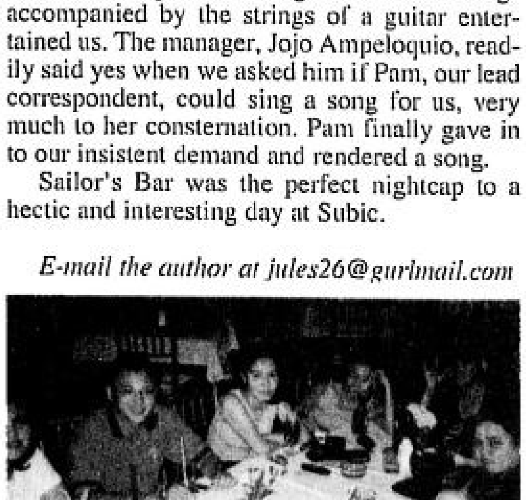
The interior of the bar is classy and sophisticated. No fuss, nothing that can offend the sensibilities of someone in dire need of rest and recreation.

Sailor's Bar was our last stop when we did the bar hop in Subic. The Long Island Iced Tea was one of the best we have ever tasted. It was smooth yet strong—just by the taste you immediately know the bartender did not scrimp on the necessary ingredients to give it its unique twist.

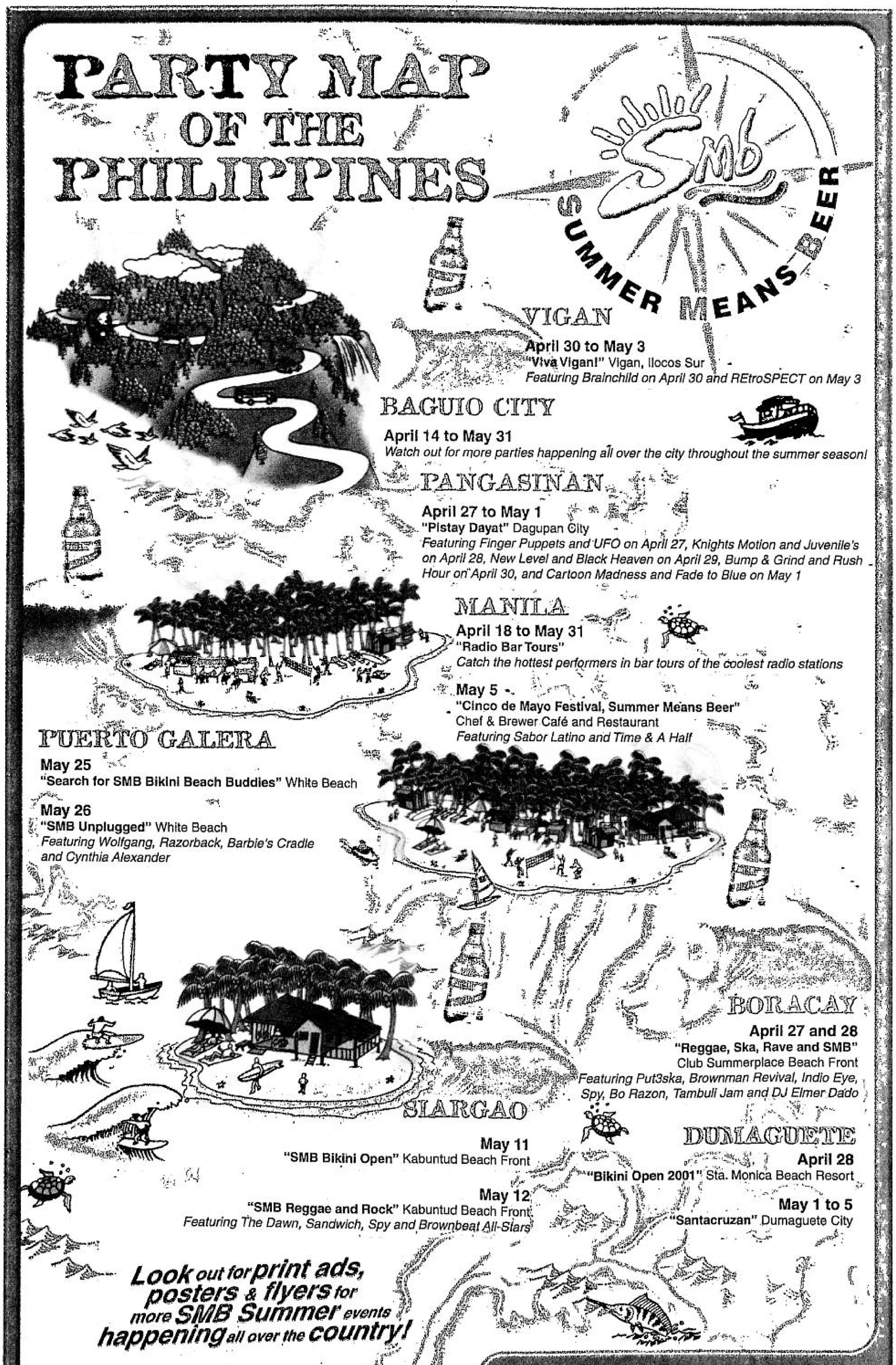
Musical entertainment, you ask? An excellent male singer who sang classic love songs accompanied by the strings of a guitar entertained us. The manager, Jojo Ampeloquio, readily said yes when we asked him if Pam, our lead correspondent, could sing a song for us, very much to her consternation. Pam finally gave in to our insistent demand and rendered a song.

Sailor's Bar was the perfect nightcap to a hectic and interesting day at Subic.

E-mail the author at jules26@gurlmail.com



STILL awake at Sailor's Bar



PARTY MAP OF THE PHILIPPINES
SMB SUMMER MEANS BEER

VIGAN
April 30 to May 3
"Viva Vigan!" Vigan, Ilocos Sur
Featuring Brainchild on April 30 and REtroSPECT on May 3

BAGUIO CITY
April 14 to May 31
Watch out for more parties happening all over the city throughout the summer season!

PANGASINAN
April 27 to May 1
"Pistay Dayat" Dagupan City
Featuring Finger Puppets and UFO on April 27, Knights Motion and Juvenile's on April 28, New Level and Black Heaven on April 29, Bump & Grind and Rush Hour on April 30, and Cartoon Madness and Fade to Blue on May 1

MANILA
April 18 to May 31
"Radio Bar Tours"
Catch the hottest performers in bar tours of the coolest radio stations
May 5
"Cinco de Mayo Festival, Summer Means Beer"
Chef & Brewer Café and Restaurant
Featuring Sabor Latino and Time & A Half

PUERTO GALERA
May 25
"Search for SMB Bikini Beach Buddies" White Beach
May 26
"SMB Unplugged" White Beach
Featuring Wolfgang, Razorback, Barbie's Cradle and Cynthia Alexander

BORACAY
April 27 and 28
"Reggae, Ska, Rave and SMB"
Club Summerplace Beach Front
Featuring Put3ska, Brownman Revival, Indio Eye, Spy, Bo Razon, Tambuli Jam and DJ Elmer Dado

SIARGAO
May 11
"SMB Bikini Open" Kabuntud Beach Front
May 12
"SMB Reggae and Rock" Kabuntud Beach Front
Featuring The Dawn, Sandwich, Spy and Brownbeat All-Stars

DUMAGUETE
April 28
"Bikini Open 2001" Sta. Monica Beach Resort
May 1 to 5
"Santacruzan" Dumaguete City

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A man who gives wings to his dreams

(Story on page D3)

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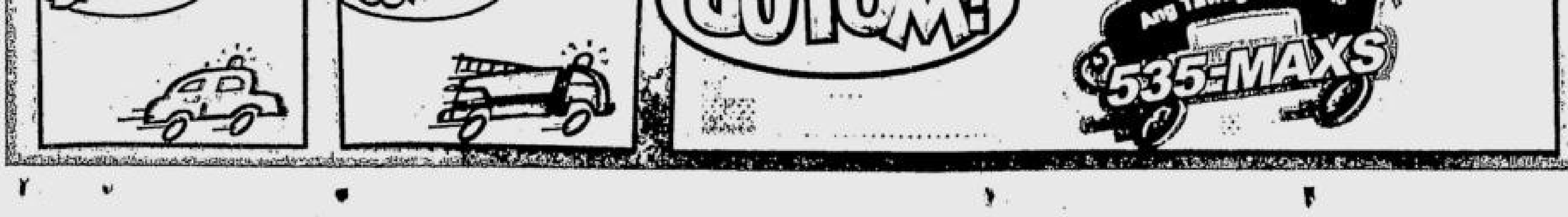
SAKLOLO!
SUNOG!
GUTOM!
Ang Tawag Sa Sarap
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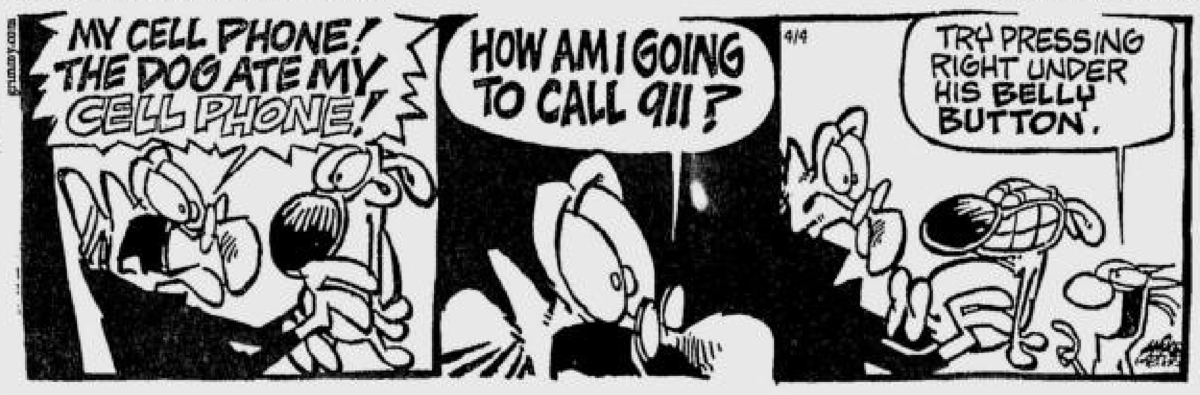
Max's to the rescue!

In case of gutom,
dial 535-MAXS.
(6297)

Max's

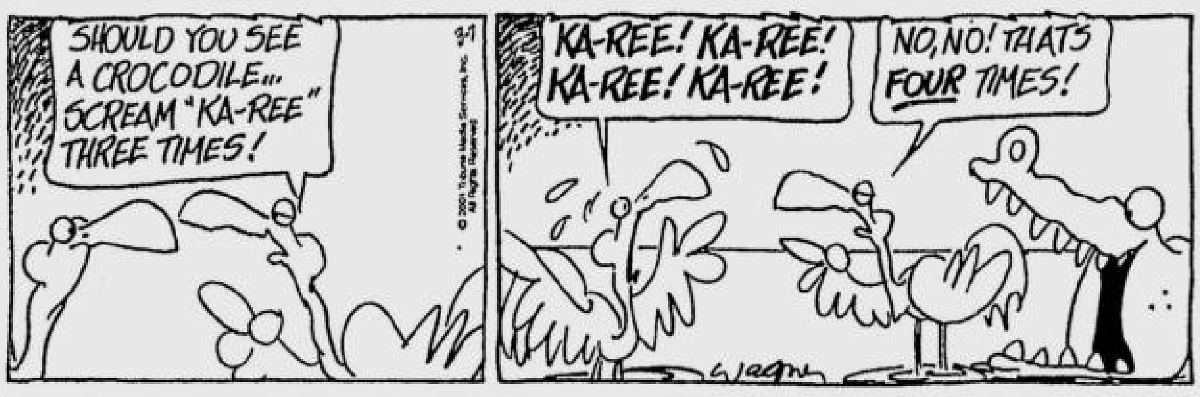
MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM

BY MIKE PETERS


MY CELL PHONE! THE DOG ATE MY CELL PHONE!
HOW AM I GOING TO CALL 911?
4/4
TRY PRESSING RIGHT UNDER HIS BELLY BUTTON.

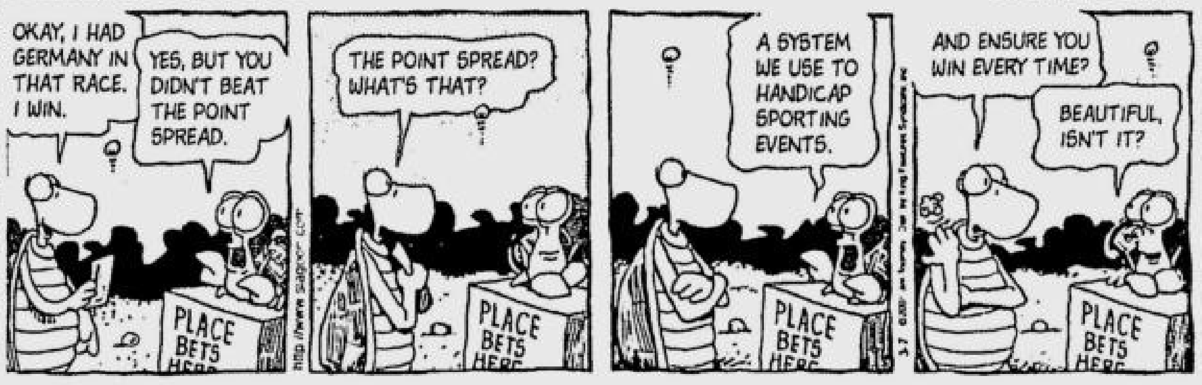
ANIMAL CRACKER

BY FRED WAGNER


SHOULD YOU SEE A CROCODILE... SCREAM "KA-REE" THREE TIMES!
KA-REE! KA-REE! KA-REE! KA-REE!
NO, NO! THAT'S FOUR TIMES!
WAGNER

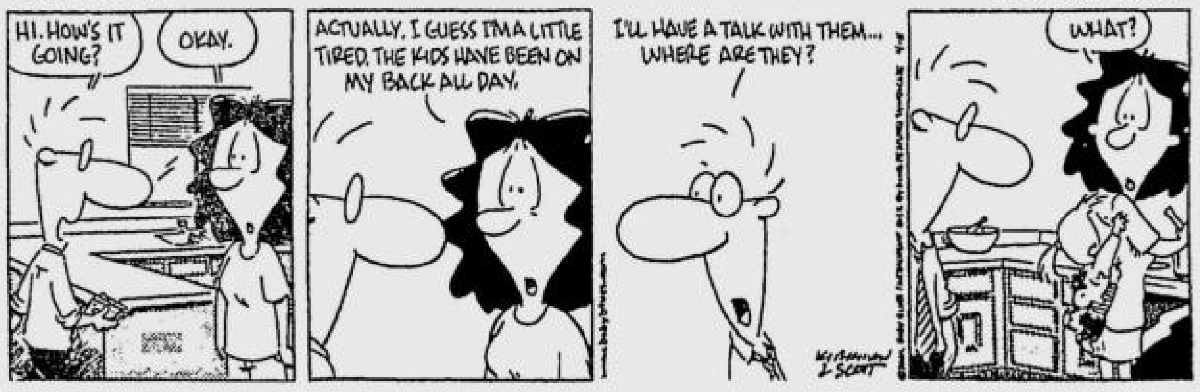
SHERMAN'S LAGOON

BY JIM TOOMEY


OKAY, I HAD GERMANY IN THAT RACE. I WIN.
YES, BUT YOU DIDN'T BEAT THE POINT SPREAD.
THE POINT SPREAD? WHAT'S THAT?
A SYSTEM WE USE TO HANDICAP SPORTING EVENTS.
AND ENSURE YOU WIN EVERY TIME?
BEAUTIFUL, ISN'T IT?
PLACE BETS HERE

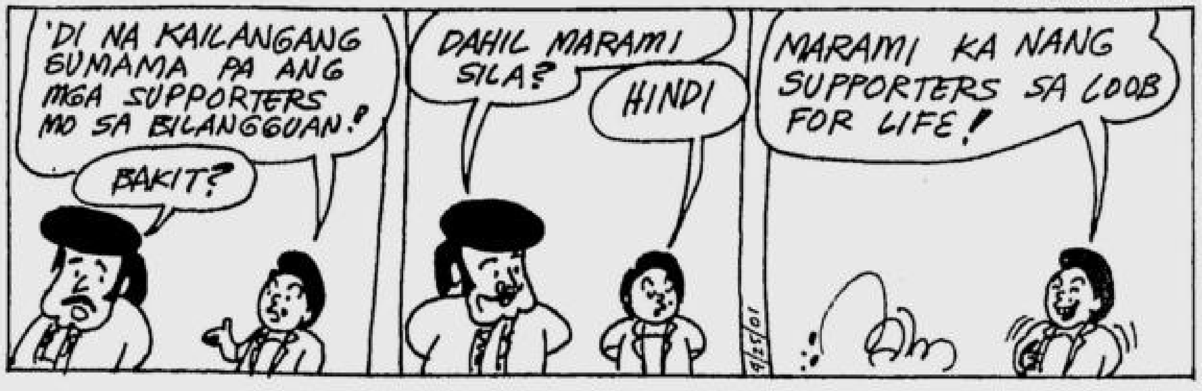
BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


HI. HOW'S IT GOING?
OKAY.
ACTUALLY, I GUESS I'M A LITTLE TIRED. THE KIDS HAVE BEEN ON MY BACK ALL DAY.
I'LL HAVE A TALK WITH THEM... WHERE ARE THEY?
WHAT?

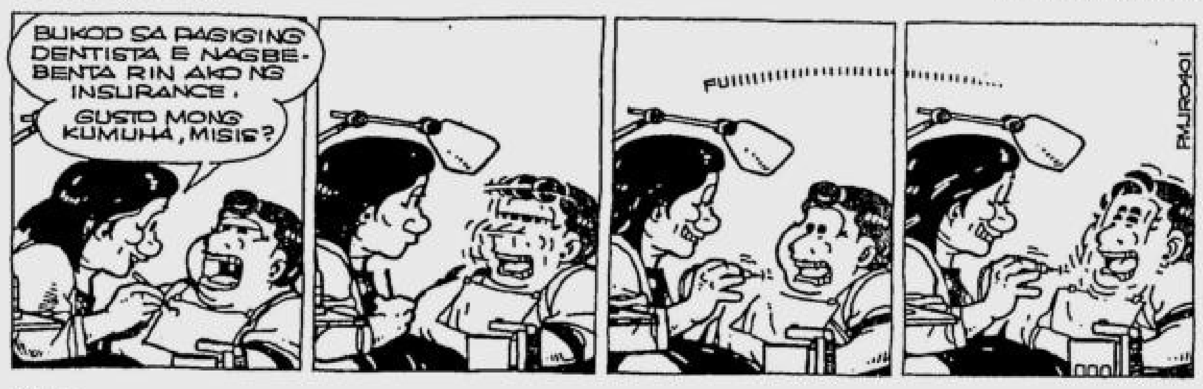
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


'DI NA KAILANGANG SUMAMA PA ANG MGA SUPPORTERS MO SA BILANGGUAN!
BAKIT?
DAHIL MARAMI SILA?
HINDI
MARAMI KA NANG SUPPORTERS SA LOOB FOR LIFE!
4/25/01

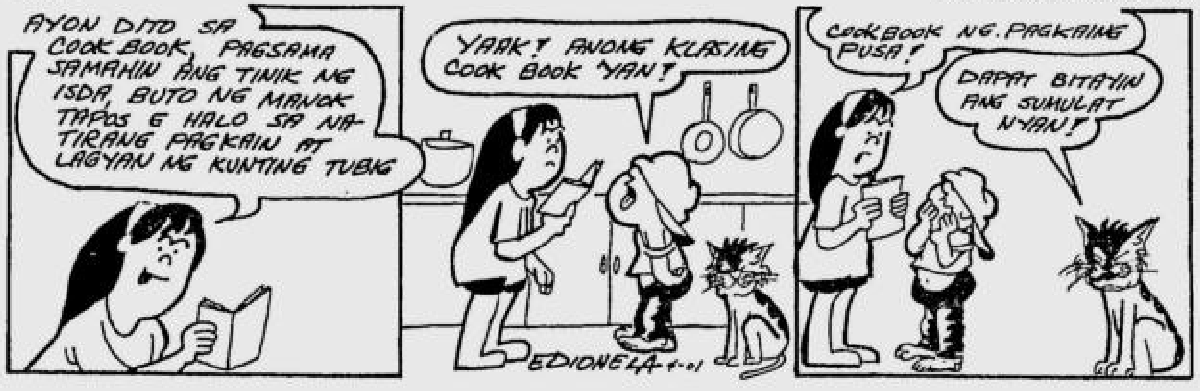
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


BUKOD SA PAGIGING DENTISTA E NAGBEBENTA RIN AKO NG INSURANCE.
GUSTO MONG KUMUHA, MISIS?
FUIIIIIIIIIII......
PMJR0401

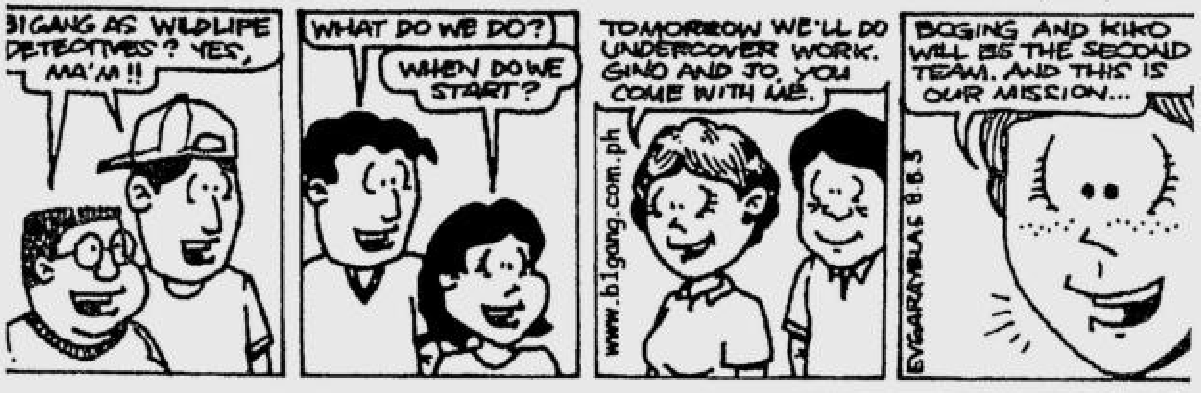
SIMO

BY EDGAR DIONELA


AYON DITO SA COOK BOOK, PAGSAMA SAMAHIN ANG TINIK NG ISDA, BUTO NG MANOK TAPOS E HALO SA NATIRANG PAGKAIN AT LAGYAN NG KUNTING TUBIG
YAAK! ANONG KLASING COOK BOOK 'YAN?
COOKBOOK NG PAGKAING PUSA!
DAPAT BITAYIN ANG SUMULAT NYAN!
EDIONELA 4-01

B1 GANG

BY ATS11/ JEA/ FEVG


B1GANG AS WILDLIFE DETECTIVES? YES, MA'AM!!
WHAT DO WE DO?
WHEN DO WE START?
TOMORROW WE'LL DO UNDERCOVER WORK. GINO AND JO, YOU COME WITH ME.
www.b1gang.com.ph
BOGING AND KIKO WILL BE THE SECOND TEAM. AND THIS IS OUR MISSION...
EVGARAYBLAS 8.8.5

HOROSCOPE

BY EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Al Pacino, Ella Fitzgerald, Paul Mazursky, Albert King, Talia Shire, Renee Zellweger, Sisqo

Happy Birthday: You'll be flying by the seat of your pants if you take on too much this year. Be discriminating and pick the projects that appear most promising. You will have to divide your time carefully so that you don't neglect your personal obligations. Schedule times for work and for play. The better balanced you are, the more successful you'll be. Your numbers: 19, 26, 31, 35, 41, 47

ARIES (March 21-April 19): You can learn a lot if you keep an open mind and discuss your opinions with established individuals. Romantic connections can be made through the company you keep.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Your concern with financial security for yourself and your family will prompt you to find out more about real estate or new products for the home. Small business ventures will pay off.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): You need to feel free to come and go as you please and must follow your creative pursuits. Don't let your partner squelch your plans because of his or her jealousy. It's time to lay down the law.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): You are so reluctant to let go of the past. It's time you came to terms with reality. Stop holding yourself back, get out and experience new things and new people.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Travel for pleasure will be enjoyable, but will cost more than anticipated. Try to avoid gambling or taking unnecessary risks. Career changes should be progressing.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Don't jump the gun; you will find yourself getting angry with the wrong person. Be careful what you say. You'll regret your impulsiveness for quite some time.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Love can be yours. You will attract members of the opposite sex with your sophisticated charm. Your intuitive awareness will aid you in picking the right person. Don't be afraid to make the first move.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Help older relatives. Find ways to make their life a little better. You can take care of any of your household concerns relatively quickly if you take the initiative and do the work yourself.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Take advantage of opportunities. Your self-confident attitude will convince others to follow in your footsteps. Love interests will gravitate toward you.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Arguments will lead to trouble. Colleagues are not likely to agree with your concepts or your choices. Do your own thing, and the result will be successful.

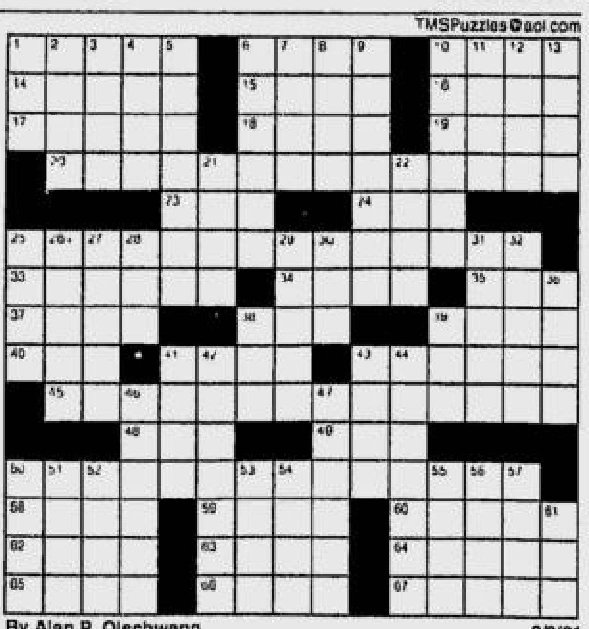
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Extravagance will be your weakness. Don't gamble or take a chance on a fast cash venture. Losses are inevitable if you trust someone else with your money or your possessions.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Don't let your emotions take over. Consider all your options and don't hesitate to take sound advice from a reliable source. Be practical and honest.

Birthday Baby: You are sensitive, generous and very accommodating when you want to be. You are loyal and will never change your mind once it is made up. You are creative and have the will-power to follow through with your ideas.

DAILY CROSSWORD

TMSPuzzles@aol.com



By Alan P. Olschwang
Huntington Beach, CA

3/9/01

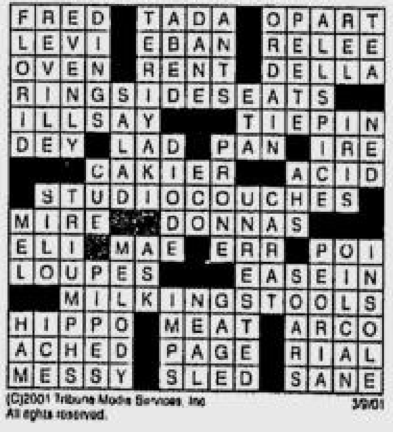
ACROSS

1 Wound covers
6 Pro __ (in proportion)
10 Old-time panelist Chase
14 God of Islam
15 Fencer's foil
16 Earth
17 Egypt's capital
18 Tarot user
19 Nabisco cookie
20 Start of Robert H. Henry quote
23 HST follower
24 Comic Caesar
25 Part 2 of quote
33 Summertime TV fare
34 Broad valley
35 Deer's kin
37 Muslim prayer leader
38 Draw a bead on
39 Opposed to
40 Old-time gumshoe
41 Stag attendee
43 Gless or Stone
45 Part 3 of quote
48 Actor Torn
49 Fish eggs
50 End of quote
58 Abode of buzzers
59 Space
60 Revere
62 Exploits
63 Cut short
64 Like Dylan Thomas
65 Male red deer
66 Lendable organs?
67 Marketing figure

DOWN

1 Pouchlike structure
2 Quahog
3 Inter __ (among other things)
4 Farm outbuilding
5 Wearing wedgies
6 Repair greens
7 Simians
8 Adolescent
9 Type of spray
10 Tristan's love
11 Petty or Singer
12 Port on the Dnieper
13 Hand-cream ingredient
21 Seraglio areas
22 Fork part
25 Yank's ally
26 Neighbor of Saudi Arabia
27 Shore up
28 Pirate's drink
29 Arrivederci, Andre
30 Flight from the law
31 Painter Matisse
32 Singer John
36 January honoree
38 Clerical vestment
39 Rhine tributary
41 Yr. before 1600
42 Malign
43 Put on cargo
44 Braying sounds
46 Tubb or Hemingway
47 Hobos
50 Casual negative
51 Tilting tower town
52 Finished
53 New Rochelle college
54 Black in Bordeaux
55 Conception
56 Slump lazily
57 Scottish Gaelic
61 Questioning interjections

PREVIOUS PUZZLE ANSWER



F	R	E	D		T	A	D	A		O	P	A	R	T
L	E	V	I		E	B	A	N		R	E	L	E	E
O	V	E	N		R	E	N	T		D	E	L	L	A
R	I	N	G	S	I	D	E	S	E	A	T	S		
I	L	L	S	A	Y				T	I	E	P	I	N
D	E	Y		L	A	D		P	A	N		I	R	E
			C	A	K	I	E	R			A	C	I	D
	S	T	U	D	I	O	C	O	U	C	H	E	S	
M	I	R	E			D	O	N	N	A	S			
E	L	I		M	A	E		E	R	R		P	O	I
L	O	U	P	E	S				E	A	S	E	I	N
		M	I	L	K	I	N	G	S	T	O	O	L	S
H	I	P	P	O		M	E	A	T		A	R	C	O
A	C	H	E	D		P	A	G	E		R	I	A	L
M	E	S	S	Y		S	L	E	D		S	A	N	E

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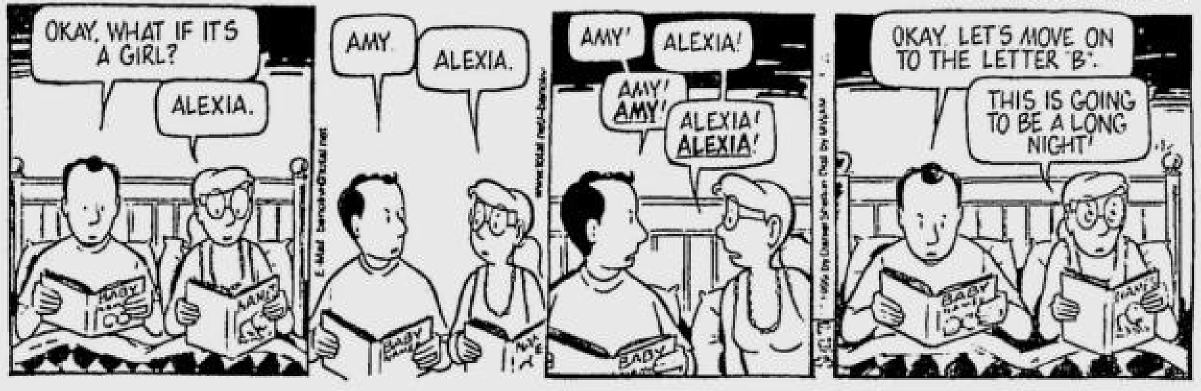
3/9/01

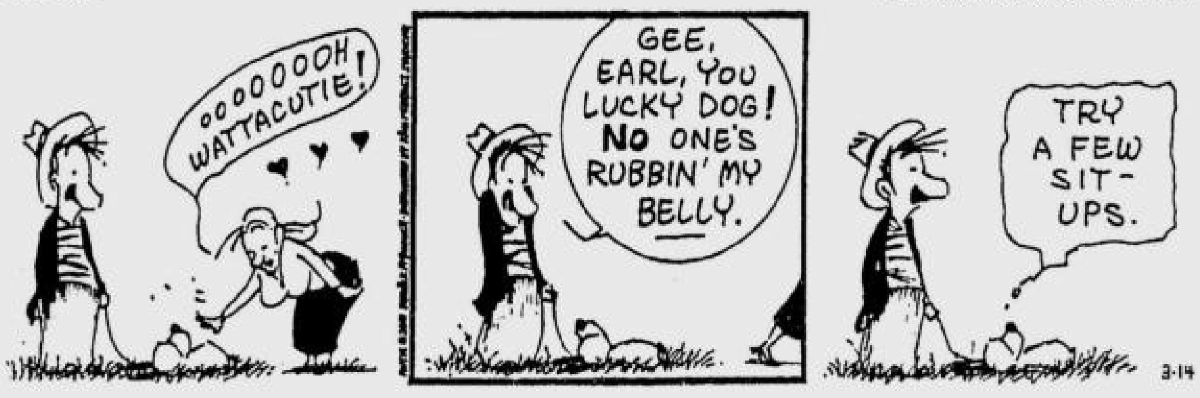
BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


OKAY, WHAT IF IT'S A GIRL?
ALEXIA.
AMY.
ALEXIA.
AMY!
ALEXIA!
AMY! AMY!
ALEXIA! ALEXIA!
OKAY, LET'S MOVE ON TO THE LETTER "B".
THIS IS GOING TO BE A LONG NIGHT!
BABY NAMES

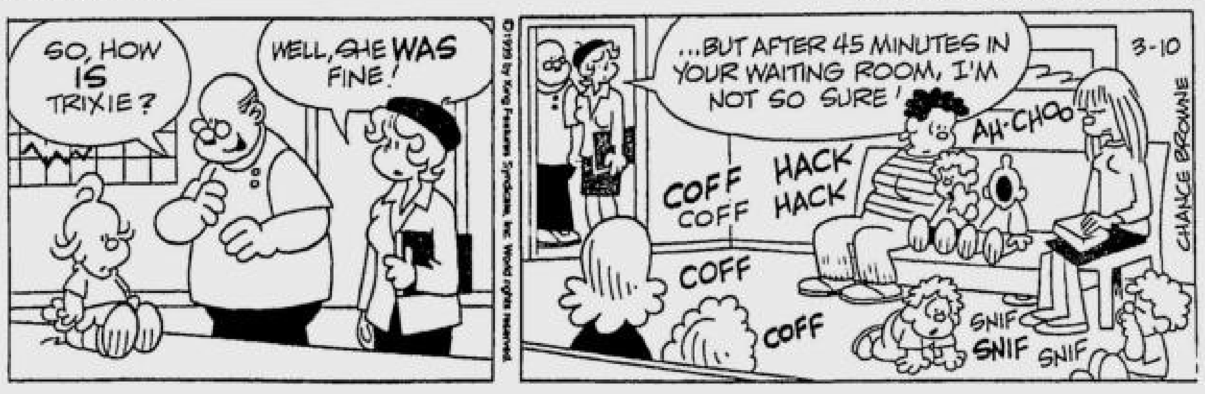
MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


OOOOOOOH WATTACUTIE!
GEE, EARL, YOU LUCKY DOG! NO ONE'S RUBBIN' MY BELLY.
TRY A FEW SIT-UPS.
3-14

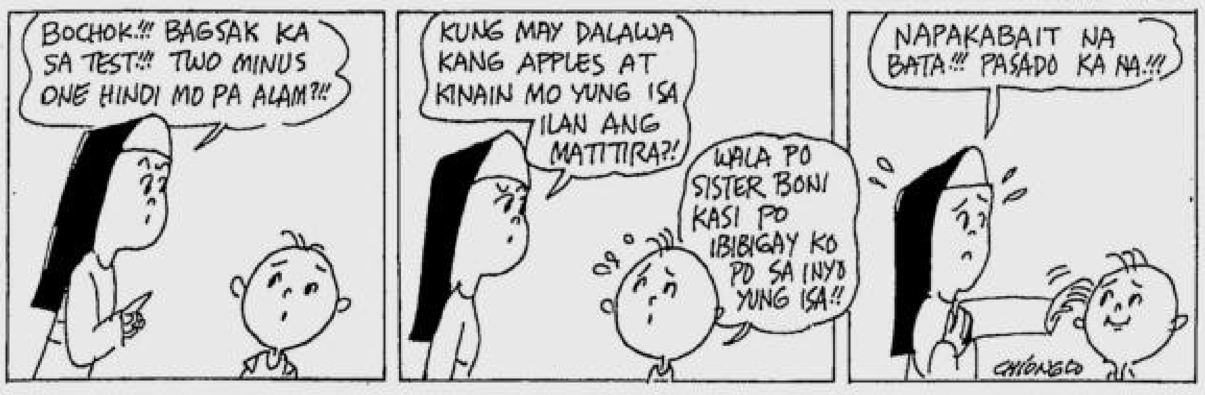
HI AND LOIS

BY BRIAN & GREG WALKER


SO, HOW IS TRIXIE?
WELL, SHE WAS FINE!
...BUT AFTER 45 MINUTES IN YOUR WAITING ROOM, I'M NOT SO SURE!
3-10
AH-CHOO
COFF COFF
HACK HACK
COFF
COFF
SNIF SNIF SNIF
CHANCE BROWNE

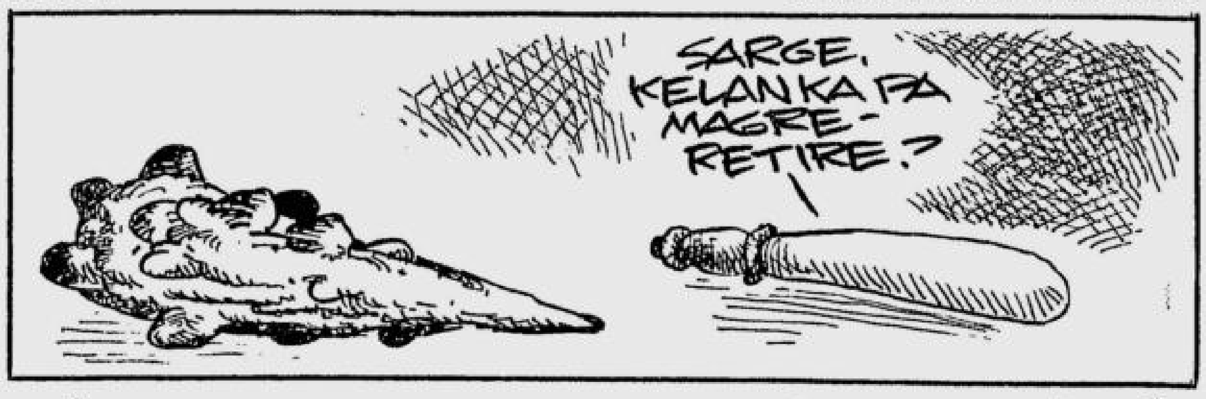
LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


BOCHOK!!! BAGSAK KA SA TEST!!! TWO MINUS ONE HINDI MO PA ALAM?!!
KUNG MAY DALAWA KANG APPLES AT KINAIN MO YUNG ISA ILAN ANG MATITIRA?!
WALA PO SISTER BONI KASI PO IBIBIGAY KO PO SA INYO YUNG ISA!!
NAPAKABAIT NA BATA!!! PASADO KA NA!!!
CHIONGLO

TULDOK

BY PAPU & TATUM MILAMBILING


SARGE, KELAN KA PA MAGRE-RETIRE?

A man who gives wings to his dreams

By Jules Alcantara

DESPITE being the son of the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority (SBMA) chair, Tonito Payumo was quite hesitant and reticent at first to grant an interview. He seemed to be a a quiet and decent fellow, not used to tooting his own horn.

"I don't even stay here in Subic," he told us. In fact, he kept trying to shift the interview to other subjects.

But Pam Pastor and yours truly persisted until he agreed to an interview. Our full schedule during our Subic visit, however, enabled him to dodge us—at least for the duration of the trip.

2bU! finally caught up with the son of SBMA chair Felicito "Tong" Payumo at his home court—the tennis court of the Manila Polo Club although even there, he still tried to wiggle out of the interview. It was a good thing we bumped into his tennis mentor, one of MPC's regulars, Beeong Sison, who, when told that we were trying to interview the University of Notre Dame finance graduate, said, "Yes, you should feature him. This guy is a good role model."

We found out during the interview that like Olongapo's (and one of the country's) source of pride, Subic, Antonio Jose Felicito Payumo, otherwise known as Tonito, is a young man also brimming with potential. He is a very much his own man and does not need to hang on to daddy's coat tails to get noticed.

'Well-rounded' start

He describes himself as "a well-rounded kid." Coming from a family of golf and tennis enthusiasts, he was introduced to the game of tennis at an early age. Tonito fell in love and developed a passion for the sport. In fact, his childhood dream was to become a "professional tennis player" although he was also into swimming, golf and soccer.

Ever as a child, Tonito already had a competitive streak. The first time he competed was in a swimming event. At 11, he played for the Philippine soccer team, which won the Gothia Cup, the largest soccer tournament in the world. The international tournament was held in Goteborg, Sweden. The Philippines competed against Brazil in the semifinals. It was not exactly an easy feat for the young man (or his team), and one that he fondly remembers.

Tonito became the national junior tennis champion in 1990-1991. Back in Notre Dame, where he attended college, Tonito was a member of the varsity tennis team.

Attending Southridge for grade school and Ateneo de Manila for high school, Tonito did "pretty okay [illegible] school. But just like any young boy, he preferred to participate in his favorite sports activities. He laughs [illegible] recalls an incident that typified his devotion to sports. On his way to pick up his teammates for [illegible] match, he met an accident. He got a gaping [illegible] and he could actually see his kneecap jutting out. "But I [illegible] stood up and said, 'I want to play the game'," he narrates animatedly. "I refused to believe that I was injured," he adds.

Tonito got eight stitches for that wound and a scar continues to remind him of that incident. Even at a young age, he showed passion, [illegible] obstinacy, and tenacity not leaving a [illegible] finished.

"I'd say I was a well-rounded kid. But when I become passionate about something, I [illegible] live a normal life," he remembers. Sometimes [illegible] would rather go out with friends but being a budding competitive sports figure meant he had to sleep early and even fuss about his diet.

He still has the tennis skills he acquired as a young man although he is more into swinging golf clubs now. Last year, after a long layoff, Tonito and his partner won the national tennis doubles title, beating the No. 1 team in the nationals en route to the finals. He modestly says it was a "lucky streak" but it is interesting to note that he and his partner beat the [illegible]-ranked players in the country in the semifinals of a national tennis tournament held last [illegible]

Passion and equilibrium

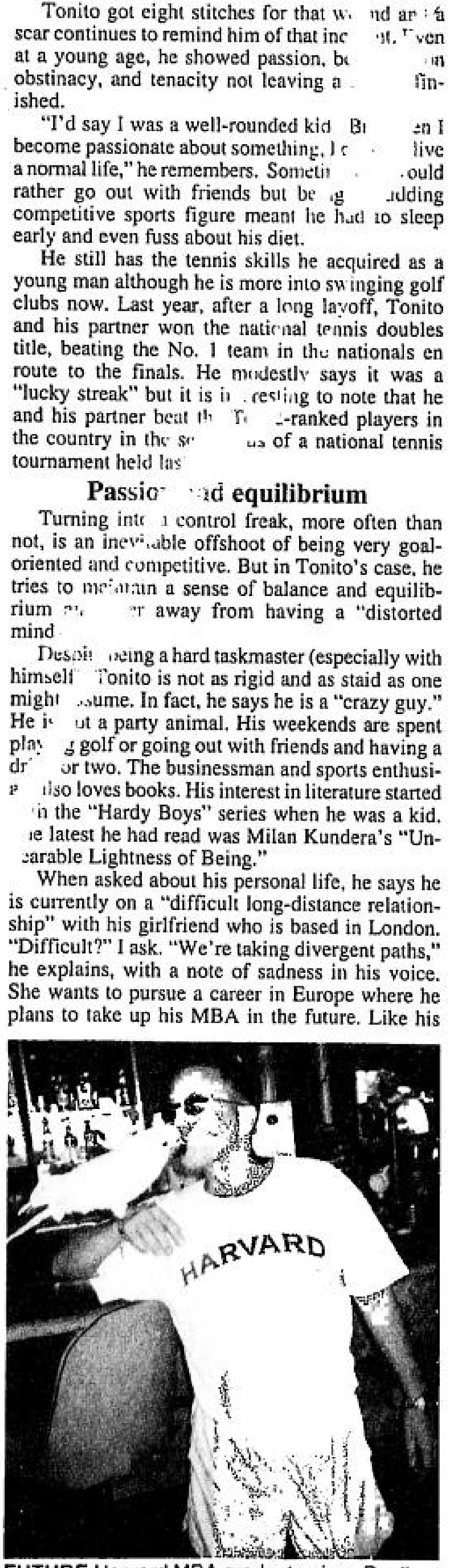
Turning into a control freak, more often than not, is an inevitable offshoot of being very goal-oriented and competitive. But in Tonito's case, he tries to maintain a sense of balance and equilibrium [illegible] away from having a "distorted mind [illegible]

Despite being a hard taskmaster (especially with himself) Tonito is not as rigid and as staid as one might assume. In fact, he says he is a "crazy guy." He is not a party animal. His weekends are spent playing golf or going out with friends and having a drink or two. The businessman and sports enthusiast also loves books. His interest in literature started with the "Hardy Boys" series when he was a kid. The latest he had read was Milan Kundera's "Unbearable Lightness of Being."

When asked about his personal life, he says he is currently on a "difficult long-distance relationship" with his girlfriend who is based in London. "Difficult?" I ask. "We're taking divergent paths," he explains, with a note of sadness in his voice. She wants to pursue a career in Europe where he plans to take up his MBA in the future. Like his dad who got his MBA at Harvard, Tonito also plans to go to the United States for his postgraduate studies. "But I am not closing the doors on the idea of going to Europe," he declares, and adds that he is also looking into applying at the London Business School.

> Tonito Payumo believes in creating opportunities and taking calculated risks whether in sports or business

"THIS guy is a role model," his mother says of Tonito Payumo. VAL HANDUMON



FUTURE Harvard MBA graduate gives Paulie a smooch.

It was only when he got to college that he realized there " was more to life than just [playing] tennis." Tonito took up finance in college. "Finance, like accounting, is the heart of business and I wanted to learn the discipline that will teach me the tools that would help me further understand business," he explains.

It is not just in sports where he is competitive now. He says he is just as competitive in business.

Tonito firmly believes in creating opportunities and taking calculated risks. These are reflected in his business decisions. He is one of the founders and currently the managing partner of Pinoyauctions.com, an online auction site for ABS-CBN Interactive. Online websites have become a dime a dozen especially in the Philippines where the Internet is just starting to take off and become an absolute necessity. Competition among online websites is stiff but Pinoyauctions.com is doing well so far. This maybe partly due to Tonito's tenacious efforts to make the site as different and as unique as possible. Apart from the usual products for auction, Pinoyauctions.com also offers unique experiences such as winning a chance to play golf with superstar Dorothy Delasin or to frolic with whales in Subic.

Tonito says that maintaining a sense of balance and equilibrium guarantees that one "can achieve optimal performance in anything, may it be in sports or business or anything." That includes surviving the stiff and unpredictable competition especially in the e-commerce industry.

Winner

Although he is not the type to rest on his laurels, he says that so far, he has achieved what he has set out to do.

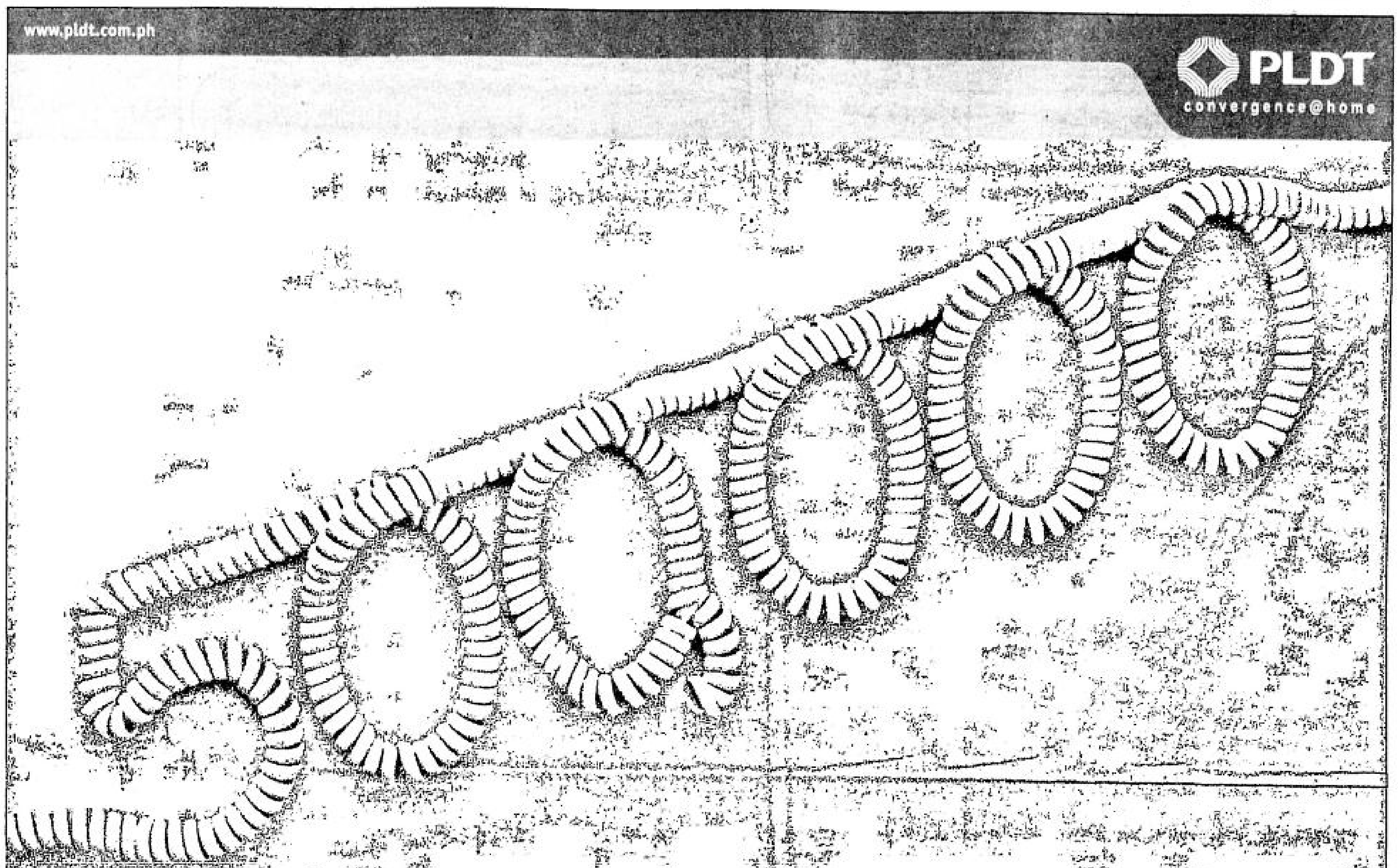
He is familiar with defeat but Tonito says he deals with failure "constructively." He adds,

"I believe that you do not have to engage in a task repetitively to be able to become good at it." Spoken like a true-blue perfectionist, we say.

As our conversation was peppered with words like "passion" and "equilibrium," I just had to ask what his current passion is. "I love golf. Golf mimics life," he proclaims. When asked to explain, he says, "In golf, you basically compete with yourself. It's hard to be consistent especially in tournaments. Just like life, there's always a setback."

So intense is his passion for golf that, he says with a grin, "I sometimes fall asleep with my golf club."

E-mail the author at jules26@gurlmail.com



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GMM	LOCATION	AVAILABLE LINES
Greater Metro Manila	Alabang	50,332
	Balara	20,587
	Binondo	30,893
	Caloocan	7,476
	Las Piñas	32,115
	Malabon	13,590
	Muntinlupa	8,182
	North Parañaque	19,567
	Paco	14,556
	Pamplona	27,816
	Pasay	40,008
	Quiapo	21,215
	San Pedro	18,119
	South Parañaque	13,231
	South Taguig	7,057
	South Triangle	19,174
	Tambo	34,797
	Available GMM Lines	**378,715**

LUZON	LOCATION	AVAILABLE LINES
North Luzon	Balanga	3,694
	BEPZA	1,488
	Orion	1,701

VISAYAS	LOCATION	AVAILABLE LINES
Bacolod	Bacolod	7,772
	Bata	163
	La Castellana	45
	Mansilingan	291
	Tangub	57
Iloilo	Banate	314
	Dingle	257
	La Paz	12,517
	Manduriao	1,756
Cebu/ Jones	South Cebu	17,042

MINDANAO	LOCATION	AVAILABLE LINES
Davao Metro	Calinan	293
	Cotabato	8,502
	Dinaig	579
	Isulan	592
	Mintal	1,065
	Matina	10,556
	Panabo	3,799
	Panakan	230
	Parang	327
	Sasa	8,514
	Sultan Kudarat	413
	Tacurong	960
	Toril	3,240
Davao Central	Buhangin	3,768
	Davao Central	19,218
	Maa	189
Zamboanga	Oroqueta	1,077
	Ozamis	2,741
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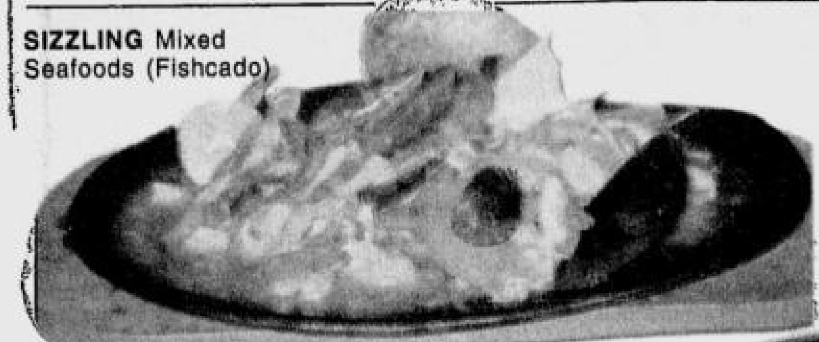


SIZZLING Mixed Seafoods (Fishcado)

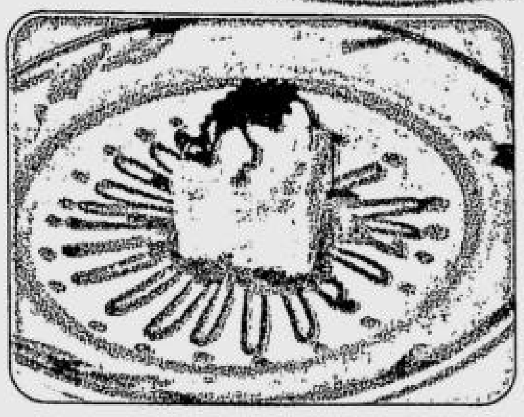
Gastronomical delights in Subic

FARFALLE alla Panna Vesuvio (A Tavola)

PHOTOS BY PAM PASTOR

SPAGHETTI Marinara alla Oliva (Cambusa)

Subic is not only a haven of specialty shops and beaches, but of restaurants that proffer heavenly creations as well



MOUSSE Gelata al Ciocolato (Cambusa)

SAY the word Subic and most people will automatically think of shopping, beaches and adventure. Food? Not really. But that doesn't mean you can't give its restaurants a shot. You might just discover a feast for your palate.

Subic Fishcado Grills & Seafoods Restaurant

MC 12 Waterfront Road corner McKinley Street, SBFZ, Olongapo
Open 11 a.m.-11 p.m. (daily)

Fishcado is a place for seafood lovers. The whole place is spacious, with sunlight streaming through the restaurant's floor-to-ceiling windows. Its waiters and waitresses don colorful Filipino outfits.

Fishcado boasts of a wide range of fresh seafoods in its menu. Like its branch in Davao, it offers a lot of choices—fish, shellfishes and squid cooked in all ways imaginable—from sizzling and fried to grilled and stewed.

A small basket of crispy crablets costs P80 while *calamares* is at P145. We decided to order *sinigang* seafoods (mixed seafood *sinigang*)—you can choose between a small (P175) or a big (P350) serving. Tuna belly is P60 per 100 grams and the sizzling mixed seafoods, P150 per 100 grams.

I have three reasons to go back to Fishcado. One, the baked scallops (P150 per order), which are buttery and garlicky. Two, the fruit shakes (P55) that are so rich and sinful. I loved their generous serving of mango shake—it's definitely fresh, with chunks of mango. Yasmine's avocado shake is creamy—to this day I am still craving for it. And third, the huge plate of pomelos they served for dessert, minus the skin (no more tugging and pulling). Now that was a real treat.

A Tavola

Palm Street, Subic

There is no shortage of Italian restaurants in Subic.

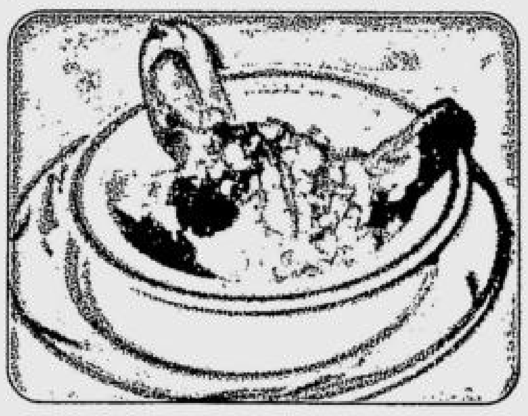
A Tavola is one of them. When I walked into the restaurant, the first thing that caught my eye was the checkerboard floor. The windows and the wooden furniture lend a feeling of quaintness to the place.

The restaurant's owner led us through a full meal consisting of the restaurant's specialties.

We began with Bruschetta al Pomodoro (P60). This is garlic bread topped with fresh tomatoes and basil leaves. The tomatoes are red, juicy and really, really fresh.

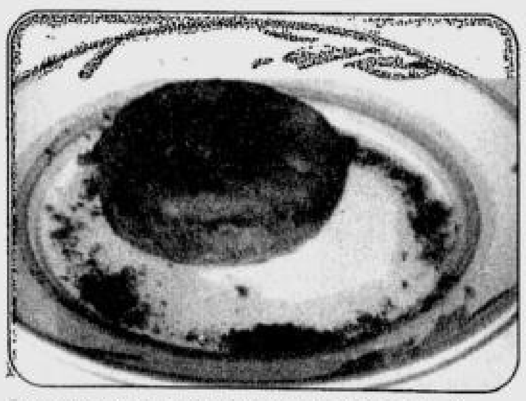
Then we started trying different pizzas and pastas.

I loved the Margherita (tomato sauce, mozzarella, fresh basil—P240). The Quattro Stagioni (P280) or the four season pizza is even better. It offers two slices each of the restaurant's different pizzas—prosciutto (ham, mushrooms and mozzarella), pescatora (tomato sauce and seafood), marina (to-



RISSOTTO Frutti Di Mare (Cambusa)

PIZZA Margherita (A Tavola)



MOZZARELLA in Carrozza (Cambusa)

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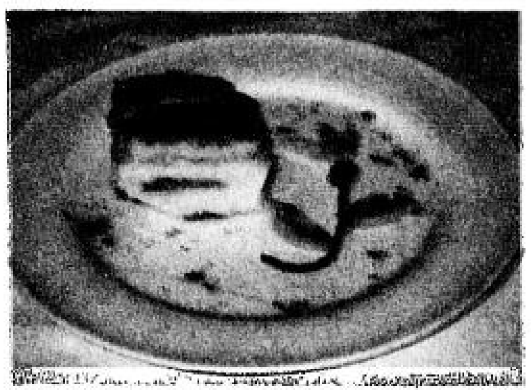
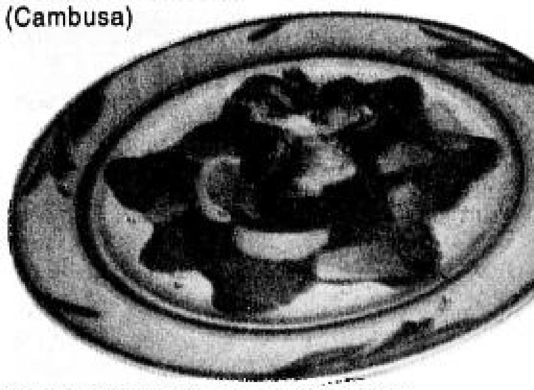


TIRAMISU Classica (Cambusa)



CARPACCIO Classico (Cambusa)

mato sauce, garlic and black olives), margherita. Perfect for those who can't make up their mind, or for people dining together who have different cravings.

The pizza crust is really good—garlicky. Even the pasta has fresh ingredients. The Rigatoni alla Maticiana (large tubular pasta in a light tomato sauce with savory imported panchetta, P180) has a smoky flavor because of the bacon. The Fettucine alla Panna Vesuvio (homemade flat egg noodles—but the cook used Farfalle noodles when we tried it—with a rich creamy sauce tossed with ham and mushrooms, P190) is good, very creamy. That's my pick. I've always been a sucker for white sauce.

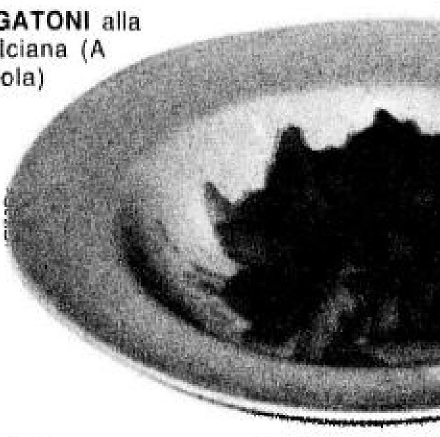
The Rigattoni alla Parmigiana (large tubular pasta on tomato sauce with mozzarella and fresh eggplant, P190) is good, too, although I've never really been an eggplant lover (except when I cook moussaka, a Greek dish). The last pasta served became the group's favorite, Spaghetti alla Bolognese (spaghetti noodles with the classic beef tomato sauce, P170). Not too tart, just right for the average Filipino tongue.

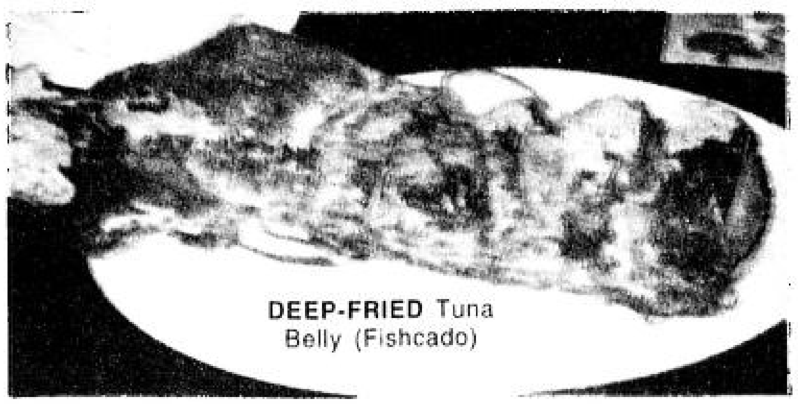
Cambusa

Subic Bay Yacht Club
Rizal Highway, Subic Bay Freeport Zone, 2222

Cambusa is the Italian word for galley, or the kitchen area on a ship. The perfect name for a restaurant found in smack dab in the middle of Subic's yacht club.

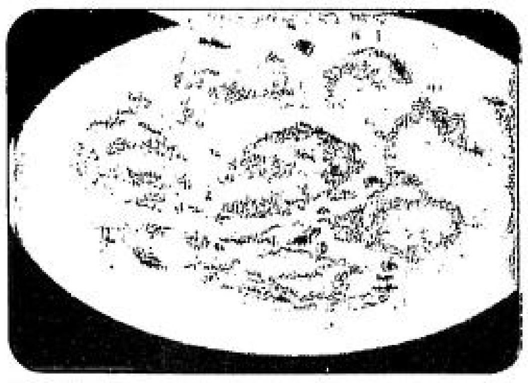
RIGATONI alla Maticiana (A Tavola)





DEEP-FRIED Tuna Belly (Fishcado)

INSALATA di Pescatori (Cambusa)



BAKED Scallops (Fishcado)

For starters, we ordered the Mozzarella in Carrozza (mozzarella cheese, deep fried with anchovies and caper sauce, P145), Insalata di Pescatori (marinated seafood salad with chili, olive oil, garlic, oregano and parsley, P215) and Carpaccio Classico (chilled raw beef tenderloin marinated with extra virgin olive oil and topped with parmigiana cheese, P215). Not exactly a fan of raw food, I settled for the mozzarella, which was good, although I remember it being richer during my visit a couple of years ago.

What's an Italian feast without pasta and pizza?

We tried the Spaghetti Marinara alla Oliva (spaghetti al dente sautéed in garlic olive oil with mixed seafood, chili and basil, P185). We sampled different pizzas—Cambusa (mushrooms, smoked salmon, olives, shrimps, ham, mozzarella and oregano, P315), Cosa Nostra (pepperoni, anchovies, onion rings, red hot chili peppers, salami and mozzarella, P285) and the Calzone (milano salami, prosciutto ham, cooked ham, poncetta, pepperoni, tomatoes, mushrooms, onion rings, fresh herbs, P295).

We also tasted the Rissotto Frutti Di Mare (rissotto with assorted seafood sautéed in olive oil, garlic, onion and parsley, P285). This rice dish, though, is a little too flavorful for my taste.

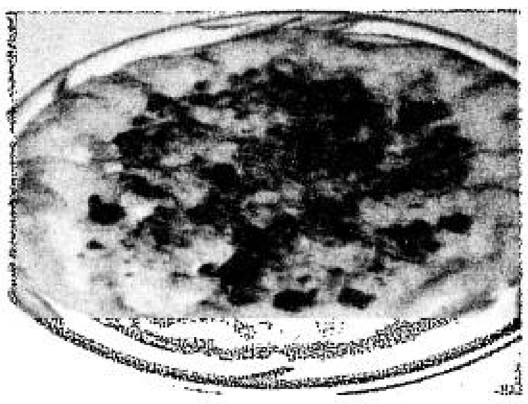
I liked the pizza better than the pasta. But what's remarkable at Cambusa are the desserts. Don't leave Cambusa without trying the Tiramisu Classica, the classic Italian dessert with mascarpone cheese (P80). Unlike most tiramisus I've tried, the flavor of the liquor does not overpower the delicate taste of the dessert. It is light and rich at the same time—a contradiction.

The Creme Brulée (Italian style in-house custard cream topped with hot caramel syrup, P95) is also a must. It is tender and soft and the flavor would burst in your mouth. Try the Mousse Gelata al Ciocolato (frozen chocolate parfait served with warm chocolate amareto sauce, P75)—great for your sweet tooth.

The presentation of these goodies are also a delight. These desserts are the perfect way to end your meal. The service is impeccable. The waiters are constantly on-call to answer every slightest whim. Too bad our doggie bags mysteriously disappeared. We probably had too much of a good time. No one could remember who put what where.

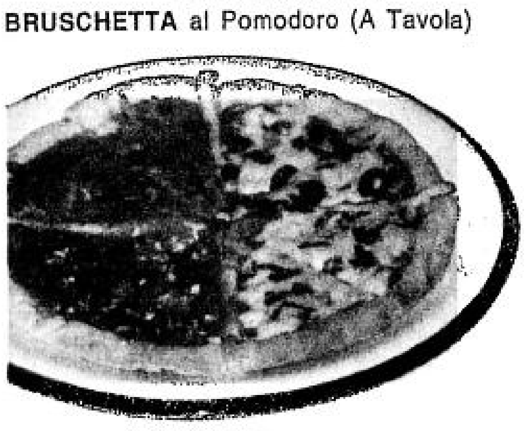
Pam Pastor

E-mail the author at pammy@exchange.ph

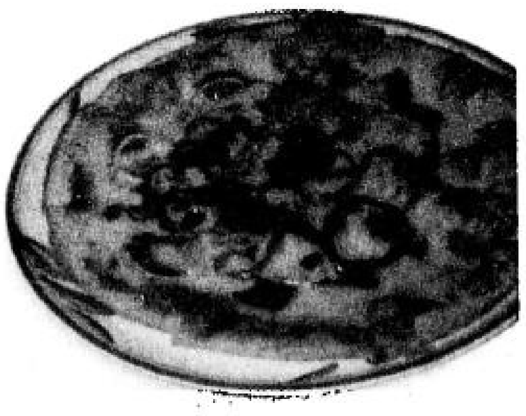


CAMBUSA Pizza

BRUSCHETTA al Pomodoro (A Tavola)



QUATTRO Stagioni (A Tavola)



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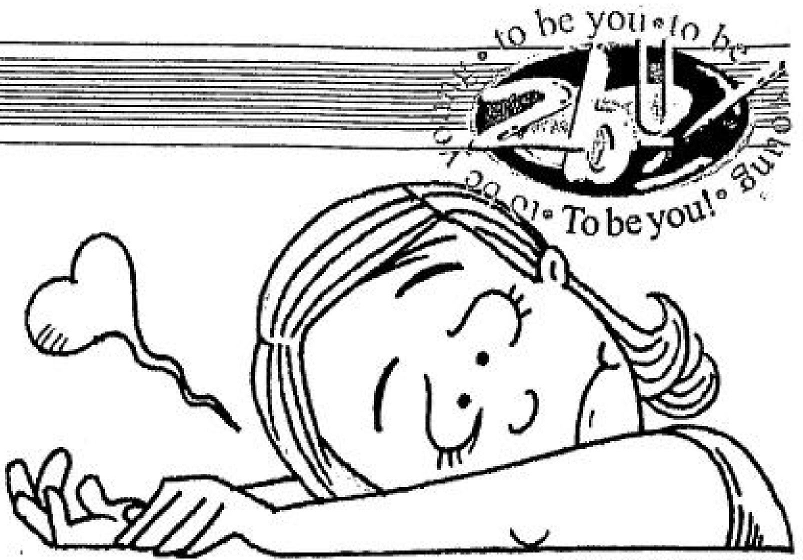
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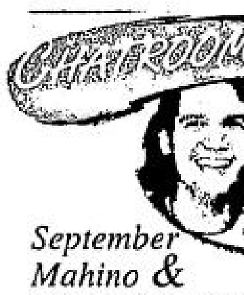
Was it just a fling?



September Mahino & Carlos Garchitorena

DEAR Caloy and Sep,

Hi there! I've been waiting for your column every Wednesday. And the last article was quite interesting; you, guys, sure know what to say. Anyway, here I am, a damsel in distress and I need your help!

I went out with a guy a few months ago, and we were really so sweet within the period of seeing each other. But we never said a word or two about how we felt toward each other and what it was all about. Now, we don't get to see each other as often as before and we don't get to talk. I miss him, and I've realized I've liked him from the beginning.

Now, I don't know what to do. Can you call that a fling? If not, was it possible that we have fallen in love unconsciously, or might have been too scared to say it in the open? What would you call "us" then?

Oh, please help. I am confused. I want to see him again. I don't know what to do.

SWEET BABY IN DISTRESS

Let us not worry ourselves over thinking up names to define the relationship you had with this guy because giving you names is easy: possibly, both of you were just flirting. Or, yes, it could have possibly been a fling, or even an affair, if you want it to be called that. Or maybe he was just being friendly and you took his friendliness a little too seriously.

If you want to bring back what you had before, then I guess the pressure is on you to do something to get close to him again. Call him. Try to hang out with him as often as possible, anything as long as it guarantees some sort of contact with him—anything short of prostituting yourself. I watched an E! special on what men really want, and an "expert" on the show said that men would like it if we girls didn't play games with them. If we like them, then there's nothing wrong with letting them know about it. I think that's a pretty reasonable advice every girl should risk taking once in a while.

SEP

I agree with everything Sep says up until she goes subsonic with the Entertainment channel reference.

Yes, don't label your relationship. You had a great time, got to know a sweet guy. You have the option of taking home that lovely memory of playing the game and getting away with a cute consolation prize... like a new toaster! Don't let Bob Barker get to you—you don't want to know what's behind doors 1, 2 and, definitely, not 3. Quit while you're ahead. You've had a tremendous ego boost (Am I wrong?) and your female virtue is still intact (Am I wrong? Can we expect an R-18 reply?). Plus you've laid the groundwork, baby. You started a little black book that, once you get into the rhythm of things, will take you places when you're doing it for money and shopping for beach shades for the summer vacation. Uh-huh, that's exactly what you've done. It's also called "networking," according to CNN's "The Players."

Are you a player? If you are, read on. According to Tome of Blarney, chapter The Game, "The memory [of you] in his brain is the bedroom of his mind." His phone number will be the doorway you will one day sweep through on a moonlit night, gracefully, in a dinner dress like a Danielle Steele moment of unchecked, blazing lust.

But don't rush out and try to snag him quite yet. He's not around for some reason, and that reason might be the best, the most interesting twist of the plot. Your saving grace, honey.

Sure, you long for him and, *sayang*, you never even got to kiss him! But there will be other times, other boys, and men who will act like boys, and boys that kiss like men, but, alas, that's next week's topic.

Just don't call him up out of the blue and say, "Why did you stop calling me? Wasn't it real? I had this dream, plus my horoscope says . . ." You'll freak him out. And his girlfriend will hate you."

CALOY

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Pop gets hotter . . .

(From page D8)

proclamations of teen independence and woes about love and love lost.

The album contains toe-tapping tracks like "Ready or Not," a song about being confused on what you want in life, *almost* sure you want independence. "On the Bus" is all about being young, carefree and just living life as it comes ("Never say never and don't wait forever/It's an open mind that sees that now is the time"). "The Distance" is about a long-distance relationship, and "Done Hanging on Maybe" seeks a definite answer.

"Pick up the Phone" has a good melody, but the ending ("won't you pick up the phone/won't you pick up the phone") turned me off. One of the best songs in this album is "You Don't Know Me," a good break from all those "I-broke-up-with-my-girlfriend-I'm-so-sad" songs. The song is about a breakup, fine, but our hero insists he won't hurt her "just to heal his heart," since "she don't owe me anything." *Finally*, someone who actually writes a song from Dawson's point of view (breathe out now).

"I Could Fall" caps this little firecracker, and the issue dealt with in "You Don't Know Me" would fit nicely in this piano-driven number, except they just *had* to sing about falling in love. Risking everything just to fall in love with our little heroine.

Yes, my friends, this could serve as "Songs from Dawson's Creek Volume 3." Enjoy your stay.

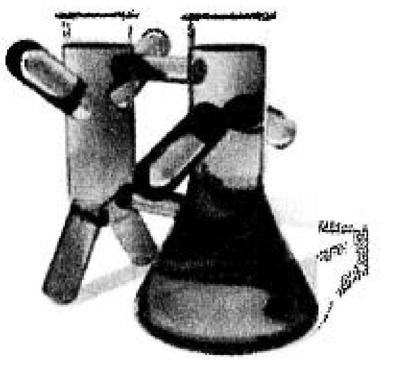
One touch
Sugababes
Warner Music

THEY just keep getting younger and younger... singing about girl power and being "touched," and still can't order a beer. Sixteen-year-olds Keisha Buchanan and Siobhan Donaghy, and 15-year-old half-Pinay Mutya Buena, make up *Sugababes*, responsible for that "can't get it out of my head" tune, "Overload." Cowriting most of the songs on their album, "On Touch," these girls, with their talent—these girls *can* harmonize—may have to do more than get a hit single to be noticed.

Harmonizing in a minor key, these three teens mix pop and R&B with funky beats and catchy tunes. Of course, they're not going to let the theme of "girl power" be missed. "One Foot In" makes it clear where guys stand in their lives (definitely *not* their top priority), and "Same Old Story" has heard it all when it comes to guys' lame excuses. "Just Let It Go" is a good track, a sort-of-dialogue about a no-good boyfriend and letting him go. "New Year," the second single off the album, boasts more of that great harmony they have, and shows the innocence they have and lost in a way, having to grow up after being left ("I'm older than my years/drowning in my tears/surrounded by the fear/since you went away"). So does "Look at me," where the girls reassure us they're "still your little girl."

Lyrically, well, you can't really expect so much from teens who spend after-school rehearsals munching sweets and candies (hence the name, get it?). Some of the songs are bland because of the lyrics, such as "One Touch" (although the guitars at the beginning could make it a winner).

Semisonic · all about chemistry



SEMISONIC'S album has a formula that has no reaction.

"One Touch" is splattered with that sleepy harmony the girls deliver. Throw that M2M album out the window... finally, some chicks that aren't nasal *and* who sing about normal things teens go through. Well, you know, in a *way*.

All About Chemistry
Semisonic
MCA Universal

REAL Semisonic fans know they're more than just that "Closing Time" band. And that front man Dan Wilson is more than just a James Van Der Beek-look alike, that he's a true artist with a flair for writing good lyrics and good music. And only real Semisonic fans can appreciate their second offering, "All About Chemistry." Someone call a *real* scientist... this little baby is a bit too overproduced.

The title track is a happy ditty all right—a catchy tune that soon wears out and drowns in the sea of Limp Bizkits and 'N Syncs. Which is sad, in a way... the band is a gifted, talented trio, but their music is far too much ahead of (or behind?) their time. Whatever it is, it's just not right *for now*.

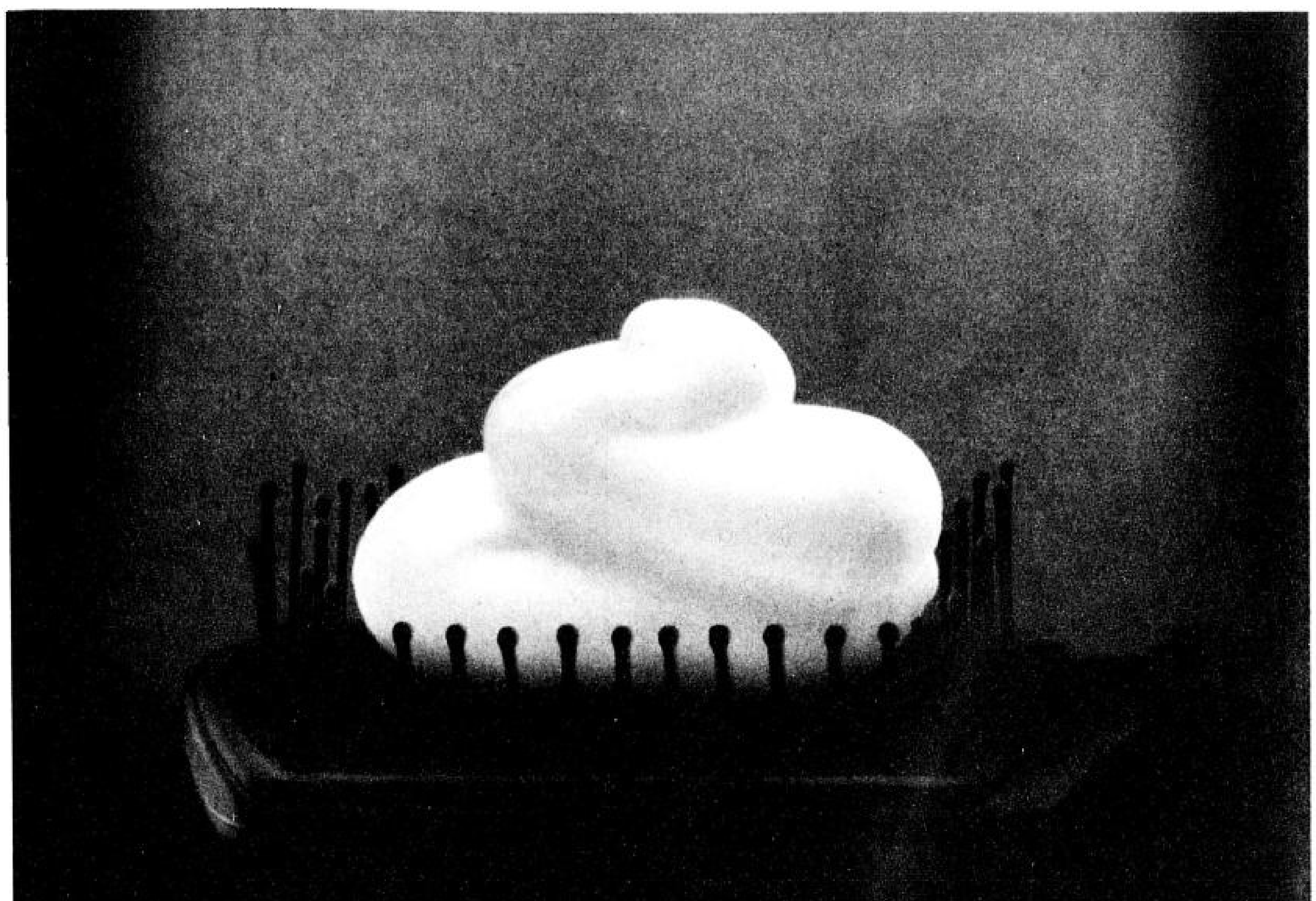
Songs like "Act Naturally" are slow, pleading sweet songs, but drags you down in a way. "She's Got My Number" is a good one, though, and so is "Follow" ("Take me wherever you go/Help me forget tomorrow"). It's comforting all right, but the lyrics are pretty dry. "One True Love," a collaboration with Carole King, is a solid investment. The lyrics give you so much hope and the smooth blend of both artists gives the song a life of its own.

The thing is, Semisonic is a piano-and-guitar band, entwining their good music with lyrics about love, being human and losing someone. All those ingredients are on the checklist, and still the album doesn't seem to have as much appeal at the last one, "Feeling Strangely Fine." Is it waiting for a little shove and push up the charts? As the track "Bed" goes, "Show me a friendship that's pure and chaste/and I'll show you an engine that's dying to race." Well run Forrest, run!

With "All About Chemistry," Semisonic pulled off a secret society-like move—it's their fans who can truly understand their music, making others green with envy for what they don't know.

As the 11th cut in the album says, "I'm gonna surprise 'em all/When they look and I'm gone, gone, gone/I'm gonna surprise 'em all/Because I've already moved along."

Oh no, Dan, say it ain't so!



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Pop gets hotter for summer

By Maui V. Reyes
2bu! Correspondent

REVIEWS

The Family Album
Arkarna
Warner Music

WHAT do you get when a son of a spiritual healer/white witch decides to hole himself up in his dad's studio, mixes tracks and records an album? Not an Alanis Morissette disaster, that's for sure.

Ollie Jacobs, the very schizophrenic DJ/producer/songwriter/guitarist/keyboardist frontman of the British band Arkarna, may have used his mom's tarot cards to name the first cut they recorded ("R U Scared"). But his band has held on to the reigns of their career on their own steam, with or without help from the spiritual world.

"The Family Album" displays the same blend of music genres like the group's past album ("Fresh Meat"), without the horror of out-of-place melodies... just simple dynamics. And if they do sound like try-hards, it comes out in a humorous "we don't care what you think, we wanna sing it this way" manner.

The first single, "Life is Free," hardly has any scratches and evidence of turntables, a sign these guys can cut it with the sentimental rock crowd. The second single, "Skin," is a mellow techno song, with purring vocals and a chorus you can't get out of your head ("She was a slave to the future funk/Yeah yeah...").

Lyric-wise, Arkarna have not lost touch with their views on life and relationships. One of the best cuts would be "Partners in Crime," a haunting track with a hint of hope about a lost friend ("And without you it's a bore/it's not fun breaking the law/anymore... my partner in crime").

"Rehab" has a reggae flavor, deliciously laced with guitars and the conga beat. Sure, it may be weird to sing in a reggae tune about ending up in rehab, but that's what makes these guys so appealing. "Somebody Else's Song" is a pop-hip-hop song and, of course, the Arkarna we know and love pops up in "Frontal Lobotomy," with its techno flavor and beats. There are also interludes showing off Mr. Jacobs' ability to heat up that turntable, something we're really glad he hasn't given up on.

It's sad that people overlook the talent these three guys have. A friend once told me you know an album's good if each track doesn't sound like the last. Well, there you go.

ARKARNA: Mixing techno and pop.

TEENAGE angst, "Dawson's Creek" style

Evan and Jaron
Evan and Jaron
Sony Music

WELCOME to the pop train. To your left is the wonderful world of teen angst, adolescence and the pains of heartbreak. Please insert an Evan and Jaron CD in your player, and enjoy the ride.

The Jewish smart-ass twins (oh, yes, who would have thought?!) release their second major label album with backup from the cult show "Dawson's Creek." Thanks to their single, "Crazy for this Girl," the Lowenstein brothers have definitely done their homework when it comes to cracking the teen market—and it doesn't hurt that they're not so bad on the eye, too.

Evan and Jaron is a rock pop, smack-in-the-middle of teen drama gem. The album fits nicely between Semisonic and the Goo Goo Dolls (post-"Iris"), almost a twin (pardon the pun) of pop-rock band 9 Days.

The first track, "Outerspace," sets the tone for the record: Backing vocal tracks, good riffs and lyrics of teen alienation ("It's lonely here/the nearest stars are miles away"). The teen population is going to go out and buy this album that's waiting to be picked up by every commercial schmoozing moneybag. Every song is a single-worthy track... that is, if you're not sick of

POP/ p. D7

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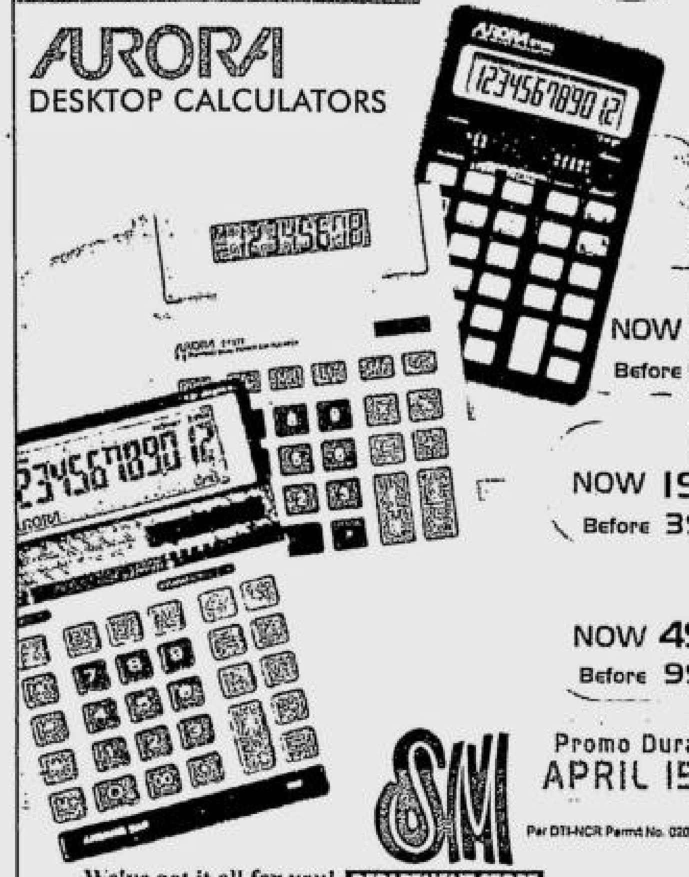

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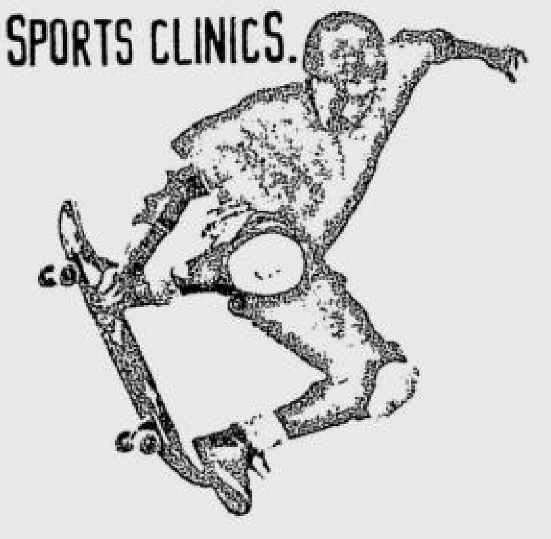

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LIFESTYLE

2bU! explores a few of the Hundred Islands

By Walter Ang

IN EVERY out-of-town trip I've joined, someone always forgets to bring something. It's usually a toothbrush or a pair of nifty sunglasses especially bought for the trip.

You knew things were off to a funny start when 2bU! went to the Hundred Is

2bU!/ p.E3

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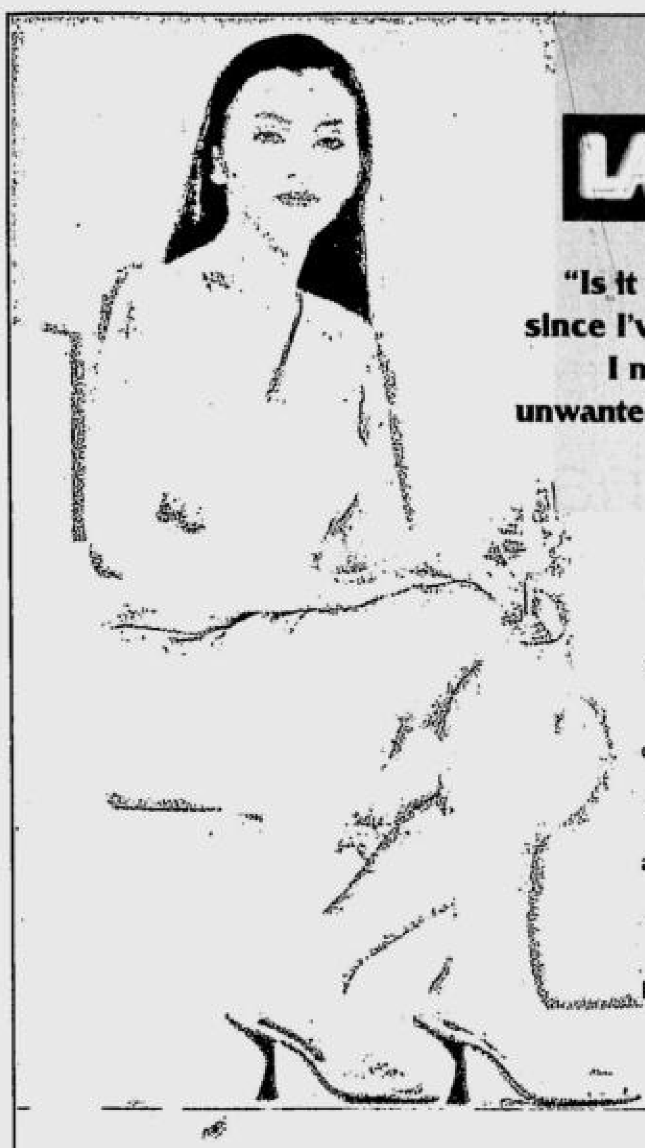

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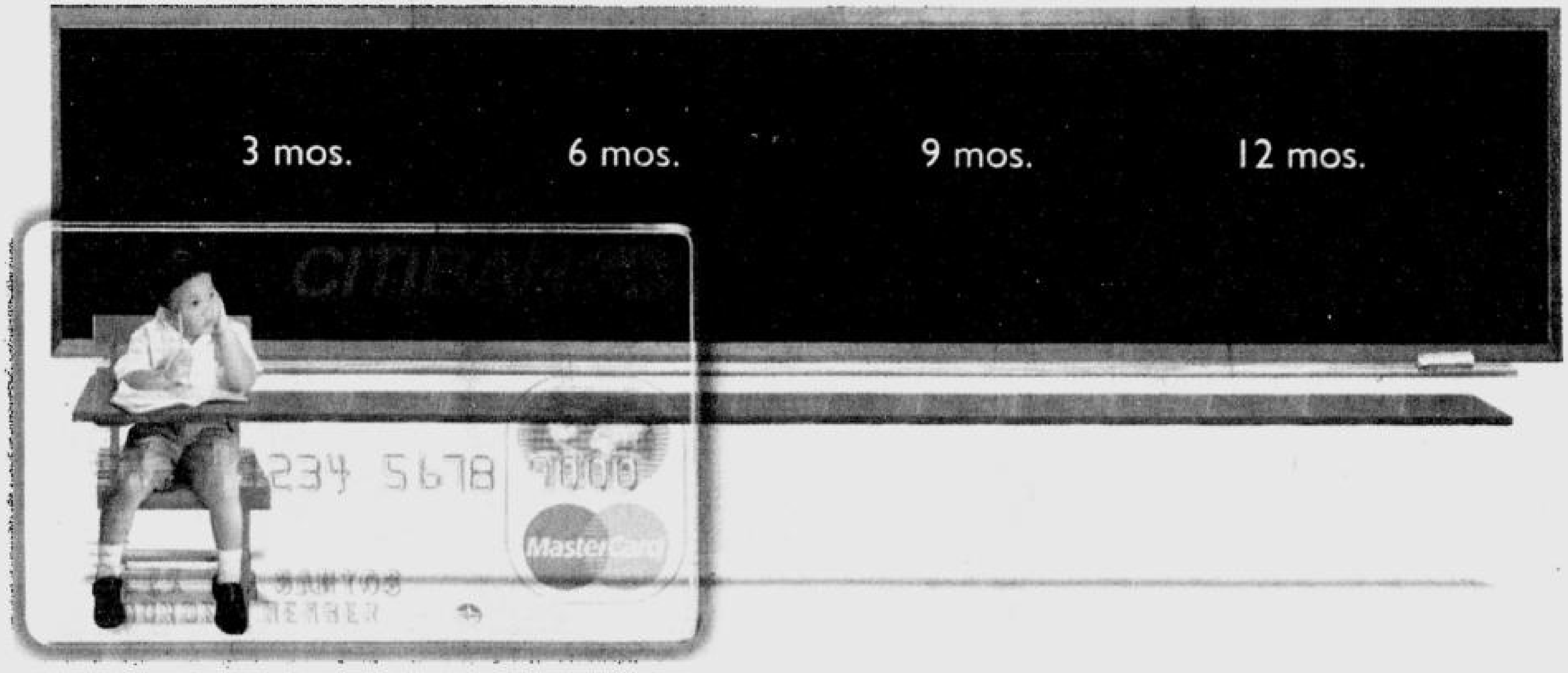

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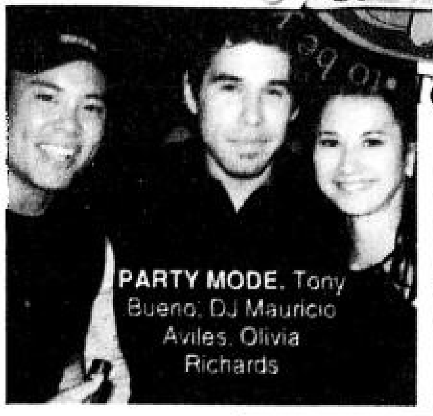
BIRTHDAY girl Geneva with manager Arnold Vegafria, Troy Montero and Victor Neri

ON AIR. Tina Abaygar (second from left), Atom Henares, Betsy Medalla

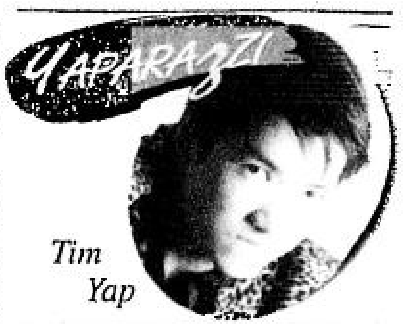

PARTY MODE. Tony Bueno, DJ Mauricio Aviles, Olivia Richards

STYLE STATEMENT. Sara Meier and fashion director Joey Espino

Trekking in Subic and making 'ukay' in Baguio

CYBERHOTTIES. Wendell Reintam, Michi Valeriano, Eg Gonzales, Edmund Velhagen

GETASIA.COM. COO John Mims addressing the crowd



Tim Yap

"GROWTH just doesn't stop, it just continues," said the male lead in the film Pleasantville, which I just finished watching before sitting down to write this column.

The past weeks have taught me lessons in spontaneity. After months of planning a trip to New York with my mom and sister this past Lenten break, I decided to stay home for the holidays. I accepted 2bu chief Pam Pastor's invitation to literally jump to Subic last Wednesday.

I called my friend, graphic artist **Kara Tolentino**, to join me on my road trip, and she immediately obliged. Despite warnings of ultra-traffic danger, we went ahead. The next two days were spent outdoors, shuffling to the yacht club and other spots to eat, drink, kayak, whale watch and trek the scenes of Subic.

"Where do we go next?" Kara asked, after two days of exhilaration over gastronomic treats and nature trips courtesy of excellent host **Tonito Payumo**.

"Hmmm, what if we go to... Baguio?" I replied.

So, again despite warnings of population danger (the "Everybody is gonna be there" and what not), off to Baguio we went.

We got a room at El Cielito (because of **Atom Henares'** connections, although it was fully booked), lunched at Rose Bowl, went crazy secondhand shopping at the *ukay-ukay*, bought cookies from Café by the Ruins, jumped by Spirits disco, napped awhile, woke up and drove back to Manila. Then I found myself in Boracay for the MTV party (that's for next week's column), and now I'm in Singapore to watch **Ricky Martin**. Whew!

Get Asia!

SPEAKING of Singapore, my friend **Chuck Syjuco** of GetAsia.com told me they are launching their website here in the Lion City as part of their expansion plans all over Asia. "It's a growing industry," he says about the local Internet trade.

Mature adults are always in awe of the fast pace that us "young uns" keep. Kids in high schools are now taught how to make Web pages. Sheesh, and I thought the microwave and a VCR are the only things I have to learn to operate.

According to Chuck, there is a 40-percent growth rate in the industry and their online publication, Local Vibe, gets 60,000 readers a month, more than what other glossy magazines can claim. It is more interactive and acts as a one-stop shop for food reviews, gigs around the city, movie listings, surveys and other features for the hip, urban dweller.

At their Smart-sponsored launch some weeks back at the Republic of Malate, world music dominated the venue. A giant tent was set up outside Republic where performers like **Grace Nono** and **Bo Razon**, and bands such as Pinikpikan, played all night, while the guests sipped their sexy **Sauza Zaz**, also the night's sponsor.

What's next for them? The GetAsia group aims to launch simultaneously in Thailand, Malaysia and other Asian countries.

Hip-hopping

WEEKS later, I party-hopped from the Replay Spring Summer 2001 collection showcase at Fashion Week in Glorietta, to sultry **Geneva Cruz's** natal treat at the chi chi outdoors of Ché at Rockwell, to the final (and controversial) Stars zodiac party of **Philip Cu-Unjieng**, **Pepper Teehankee**, **Faith Amigo**, et al, and winding down in the chill comforts of Sanctum in Intramuros, where a *despedida* was hosted for marketing maven **Betsy Medalla** (of Levi's and IDP fame.) Hip-hopping photos appear on this page.

What's next? Guess who's in town? Musical artist **Anggun** pops up at Hard Rock Café tonight for a special show at 7 p.m. She leaves Manila 6 a.m. the following day, so if I were you, I'd try to bag some tickets by now.

Political soirees, restaurant and bar closings and openings mark the next few weeks' calendar. In a city like ours, you just don't know what to expect.

Do you know what's gonna happen next?" asked the old guy of his recently reunited wife, again from the film "Pleasantville."

"I don't know," she answered. They both chuckle. Sometimes, life is more exciting when unplanned.

HI-TECH VIBE. GetAsia editor in chief Chuck Syjuco with Michi Valeriano, Patti Ongpin of Technistock and Jenny Llamas

PARROT-HAPPY. Bombi Balquiedra and Tonito Payumo

FREE FONE. [V] VJ/host for GetAsia party Mike Zerrudo with Miles Inocentes of Smart during the raffle

COZY COUPLE. Romina Urra and Monch Gonzales

HOT, HOT, HOT. Victoria Landon with friend Scott

SUBIC LADIES. Kara Tolentino and Ela Payumo

ETHNIC GODDESS. Grace Nono at the GetAsia.com event

ENERGY. Joji Dingcong, Bea Valdes, Derek Ramsey and Monica Olbes

IN YOUR FACE. Gary Buenavista

INTENSE. Pinikpikan's performance

SPOTTED IN SUBIC. Ria Kalaw and Joel Tantoco

Hallmark

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2bU! to be young · to be you
Lifestyle Teen Section of the Philippine Daily Inquirer

The Between You and Me "Cardspeak" Contest!

It was an LBC envelope containing a **Between You and Me** card that made a great difference in me as I was preparing for our comprehensive exam--the ever dreaded Revalida in Philosophy.

This particular card boosted my confidence as I battled with the pressures of my seminary formation. I desire to become a priest someday but if I flunk this exam, there would be no chance for me to graduate this year. Truly, it was a moment to test my faith.

It's a good thing that in the midst of this trial, Oly, my kid sister, buddy and constant pen friend, thought of sending me a Between You and Me card. This eased all my tensions and fears. The gesture of kindness and the card itself made me realize that even if I am away from my loved ones, they are still supportive of me. I was teary eyed as I was reading the message--just what I needed to boost my hampered confidence.

And guess what! Out of the 49 senior college seminarians who took the exams, I was one of the only six who achieved the Meritus mark. It was really something I owed Oly. She reminded me how good and loving God is for helping me in my endeavors. As the card puts it--"Faith can help in all kinds of ways".

I will always treasure this Between You and Me card until the time when I become a priest. And I will always owe Oly a part of that priesthood.

- Eugene Dominic L Hechanova
150 Fe Street,
Balayan, Batangas 4213

*Especially at times
like these,
faith can help
in all kinds of ways.
Trust in God...
His love is there
to protect and guide you
along the way.*

THIS WEEK'S WINNER!

Inside:
*And trust in me...I'm here for you
to try to give you all the support you need,
to pray for you, and to remind you
how much God loves you.*

Congrats, Eugene!
You and Oly won this!

Let ***Hallmark's Between You & Me*** do the talking! Send us the most memorable Between You & Me card you received (actual card) and tell us why it means so much to you in 300 words or less. One lucky winner will win two cool **Swatch** watches per week! (One for you and one for the person who sent you the card) Mail your entries to Filstar Distributors Corporation 3/F Team Pacific Bldg. 13 Jose Cruz St. Ugong, Pasig City 1604. Please include your name, address & contact number. ***2bU! & Hallmark*** will not be responsible for lost, misdirected or late entries. All unclaimed entries will become the property of Filstar. Winners may claim their prizes at the Filstar office. Contest ends May 16, 2001. Catch ***Joe D'Mango's Love Notes*** every Friday (10:00 am) at ***WAVE 89.1*** as he reads your favorite Between You & Me cards and every Sunday in Inquirer's Lifestyle section.

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UCPB

2bU! explores a few of the Hundred Islands

A rejuvenating four-day trip of fun and frolic spent on the beaches of Pangasinan and amid the bargain treasures of Baguio

ILLUSTRATIONS: STEPH BRAVO

(From page E1)

lands and realized each and every single person in the group forgot to bring a camera. Thus, no single picture to show of the trip. Lack of visual proof notwithstanding, we still had loads of great fun.

Day one

We had to call and wake each other up in the dead of night so we could get to the bus station by 2 a.m. Of course, with a relatively big group of eight people, delays were inevitable and we got to the station at 4 a.m. instead. The 4 a.m. bus was already full and the next one wouldn't be leaving until 6 a.m. Groan.

Plans were hatched and it was decided we would use Lavinia's van and wake up her driver to bring us to the promised (Is)lands. Waking someone up to tell him to drive eight people to Pangasinan would surely rattle a few nerves, which was probably why our hardy driver Guado made a wrong turn somewhere along the way. This turned a supposedly quick four-hour trip into an almost eight-hour trip as we took the long way instead of the shortest route possible. Thank goodness for conversations about television shows and cartoons from the '80s and my highly effective sleep-while-in-a-moving-vehicle genes!

Since we got to Alaminos, Pangasinan late in the day, we first looked for a place to sleep. I just love the Pinoy penchant for giving creative names to establishments like Elizabeth Tailoring and Kina Rogers Grill. We finally picked a place with the most hilarious name: The Last Resort. It was recommended by a friend and we had visions of a dark and scary resort that was literally at the end of the line. As it turned out, it was a brightly lit, clean and spacious place near the port.

Before turning in for the night, we decided to get temporary tattoos to show off at the beach. Rica bought a bottle of Bigen hair color and, after preparing a mixture in a bowl, started giving each of us an appropriate design with only a trusty toothpick. For less than P100 and a little imagination, we had fantastic tattoos ready to go. So much for expensive henna preparations! Rica made a great Chinese design on my back. I didn't want to wash it off so it could set overnight. I slept on my stomach but still woke up to find my tattoo design imprinted all over the sheets. Sorry, Last Resort!

Day two

While everyone was preparing his/her personal stuff to bring to the beach, we discovered each one of us had brought some kind of medicine. It was amusing and interesting to see all sorts of medications in our bags. I brought a bottle of Tylenol, and Tish, Seirrogan pills. Seirrogan pills are the ultimate Chinese remedy for all kinds of stomach aches. They're round and smell awful, but ask anyone who grew up with a bottle of the stuff at home and they'll swear by its curative properties. Further investigation yielded even a small vial of Chinese eyedrops. We could've opened our own pharmacy. It was just too funny for words!

We found a boat to take us to an island, with each of us paying P15 to some guy wearing a barong and claiming to be from the Department of Tourism. To make things easier, we made Emma our treasurer and she gamely held on to the group funds every time we had to pay for something. We later found out that you only had to pay if you were planning to spend the day at one of the developed beaches with electricity like Quezon Island. We had no such plans but we had to pay anyway. P15 is not a big deal, but the DOT might want to look into this.

We boarded the boat with our tote bags, sunblock and fresh seafood we bought at the market and cooked at a nearby stall. About 20 minutes later, we set foot on Kagaw Island. It was fantastic: the sun, the wind, the sea, the sand. We even found a great little nook with a pond and tunnel leading to another side of the island. So aside from just swimming and lying around the sand, we did our own eco-tour! It wasn't as rigorous as what you see on the TV show "Survivor," but it was certainly an exciting and fun activity.

By the time we got back to the resort, we realized the medicines we brought would be serving us well. The little cuts and bruises we got from the sharp rocks we bumped into while swimming were largely ignored. But the people in our group who were sunburnt took some Tylenol while I had to use the Chinese eyedrops because my right eye had swollen up. I think some evil insect must've bitten it or something. Groan again.

Day three

An ounce of SPF is better than a pound of sunburn, so with sunblock and another batch of cooked food (fried chicken this time), we set out for Quezon Island so we could use our P15 per head fees. We were told to show our receipt to anyone who would check. The sheer number of people spread out on that island made us change our minds in two seconds flat. Our boat operator couldn't even find a spot to dock the boat. We had him turn around pronto.

As we set out to look for another island, we bemoaned our cameraless state as we took in the picturesque scenery. The imposing islands reminded me of that giant turtle in the movie "The Never Ending Story." The turtle's shell looked like an island, complete with trees, and he would emerge from the water, scaring the daylights out of the protagonist. The little kid in me secretly wished that one of the islands would actually rise up and reveal itself to be a giant turtle. Wouldn't that be fun?

We quickly found another island. The sun beat down on us mercilessly so we tried to be resourceful and used everyone's sarongs to make an awning. While other families and groups rented canvas awnings to give them some shade, we had the most colorful, creative, tie-dyed awning on the little stretch of beach that day. We swam and relaxed and felt all of the city's tension and stress melting away.

Day four

Lavinia announced a change of plans. Instead of spending another day in Pangasinan, we were going to Baguio. The last time I went to Baguio was when I was 7, so I readily agreed. I knew we weren't going to visit the tourist places and go horseback riding, but I didn't mind. The chance to go was reason enough for me.

We got there around 3 p.m. and we went straight to the *ukay-ukay* where we spent a good two hours, well, making *ukay*. The *ukay-ukay* building is this great bargain center for used clothes. I got myself a great purple long-sleeved polo for only P100, apart from a few other things. Everyone found some great buys. We even bumped into 2bU! columnist Tim Yap going through the merchandise.

After a hot meal, we walked around the city to pass the time, soak up the cool temperature, and let the traffic ease so we wouldn't have to suffer too much on our way back to Manila. Of course, we also had to pass by the market to buy the de rigueur *pasalubong* of strawberries and peanut brittle. The cool weather was the best part of the whole trip. It felt perfect and we were all a little sad leaving since we'd have to go back to the hot and humid concrete jungle that is Manila.

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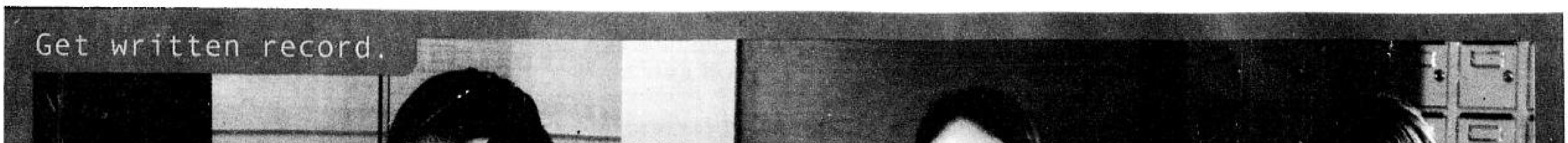
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How to deal with plunging necklines and Achilles heel

MAKEOVER

Kinny Salas

I PRETTY much would love to wear those plunging V necklines that are all over fashion magazines. My body is pretty toned from the gym and my skin is naturally tanned and smooth. The problem I come across is that these keep gaping open especially when the dress is a one-piece ensemble. How do I keep them in place? I cannot wear a bra as it will be seen and returning these clothes is out of the question because I ordered them from a relative abroad. They are my size and they fit perfectly except in the chest area, which opens when I sit down or even just slightly change posture. I am also not flat-chested as I wear a B-C cup so this cannot be a problem.

FRUSTRATED

Fit is really a tricky thing and it doesn't follow that if you have the same height and weight as the model the dress will fit perfectly on you as well. In fact, designers measure most of these stars beforehand and the clothes are practically sewn while they are in it to ensure that perfect look. One trick I have tried with regards to plunging necklines is to tape them down with double adhesive tape. I use 3M double adhesive, which I get from a bookstore. The neckline really stays put. One unpleasant experience you could expect is slight rashes on the taped area the next day. To avoid itching make sure to clean out the sticky area very well with cleansing lotion and a toner before sleeping. Applying a soothing cream or gel is a plus, too.

I am very conscious regarding my feet and I dream of one day being able to wear those slides that are so famous for summer. The ugly area is really that spot at the back of my ankle where the calluses are so thick and dark from dried up blisters I got from my office loafers and high-heeled pumps. How do I get rid of these? All my open-toe sandals are sling-backs or with ankle straps to disguise this spot on my ankle. I have missed out on so many cute slides because of this insecurity.

LULU

The area you are referring to is called the Achilles heel. I had a bad case of thick *kalyo* on that area a long time ago when I used to wear pumps and closed-back shoes. They eventually disappeared in a year's time when all I wore were slip-on slides. They just kept peeling off and softening up until they faded and eventually vanished. I haven't worn closed-back shoes since 1997 and it really improved the appearance of my toes and Achilles heel. You see, by hiding these areas in closed shoes, you create friction and our feet develop calluses as a means of defense from pain. Just exfoliate these areas once a week with a scrub like St. Ives Apricot or Red Earth Body Loffah and apply a rich formula and deep penetrating lotion on the spot to soften the area. The dark color, before it fades, did make me very conscious so I applied cream foundation or stick concealer and blended them well to come up with the perfect matching shade with my foot. It doesn't have to be a perfect match because no one will stare at your AH. Cream foundation and stick concealer were the best because they are the most resistant to water (sweat) and as our feet don't have oil glands, they last the whole day. To speed up the fading process, you may want to apply AHA creams at night and sunblock (alone or under foundation) by day. Try avoiding closed-back shoes as much as you can because the slightest friction will have you starting all over again. Slingbacks and ankle straps are OK. As for your loafers, there are slides that are fashioned like loafers on front.

STEPH BRAVO

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